

# Secure Sampling with Sublinear Communication

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**Abstract.** Random sampling from specified distributions is an important tool with wide applications for analysis of large-scale data. In this paper we study how to randomly sample when the distribution is partitioned among two parties' private inputs. Of course, a trivial solution is to have one party send a (possibly encrypted) description of its weights to the other party who can then sample over the entire distribution (possibly using homomorphic encryption). However, this approach requires communication that is linear in the input size which is prohibitively expensive in many settings. In this paper, we investigate secure 2-party sampling with *sublinear communication* for many standard distributions. We develop protocols for  $L_1$ , and  $L_2$  sampling. Additionally, we investigate the feasibility of sublinear product sampling, showing impossibility for the general problem and showing a protocol for a restricted case of the problem. We additionally show how such product sampling can be used to instantiate a sublinear communication 2-party exponential mechanism for differentially-private data release.

## 1 Introduction

Random sampling is an important tool when computing over massive data sets. It has wide application in generating small summaries of data, and serves as a key building block in the design of many algorithms and estimation procedures. In particular,  $L_p$  sampling has been used to develop important streaming algorithms such as the heavy hitters,  $L_p$  norm estimation, cascaded norm estimation, and finding duplicates in data streams [2,27,21,5].

In this work, we introduce and explore the problem of private two-party sampling. We consider a setting in which two parties would like to sample from a distribution whose probability mass function is distributed across the two parties. Specifically, we assume parties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  each hold  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1 = (w_{1,1}, \dots, w_{1,n})$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2 = (w_{2,1}, \dots, w_{2,n})$  respectively where every  $w_{b,j}$  is non-negative. These vectors each represent a (possibly non-normalized) probability

mass function of a distribution. Specifically, for  $b \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $i \in [n]$ , the non-negative value  $\frac{w_{b,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_b\|_1}$  represents the probability mass placed by distribution  $\mathcal{D}_b$  on element  $i$ . We assume that the dimension  $n$  is very large, and our goal is to obtain secure sampling protocols with communication that is *sub-linear* in  $n$ .

We consider various ways of deriving the probability mass function  $\mathcal{D}$  of the joint distribution from the two individual probability mass functions. Specifically, we consider:

- $L_1$  distribution: Sample item  $i$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i}+w_{2,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1+\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} = \frac{w_{1,i}+w_{2,i}}{\sum_j (w_{1,j}+w_{2,j})}$ .
- $L_2$  distribution: Sample item  $i$  with probability  $\frac{(w_{1,i}+w_{2,i})^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1+\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2} = \frac{(w_{1,i}+w_{2,i})^2}{\sum_j (w_{1,j}+w_{2,j})^2}$ .
- Product distribution: Sample item  $i$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle} = \frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\sum_j (w_{1,j} \cdot w_{2,j})}$ <sup>1</sup>.

Realizing these sampling functionalities securely is immediate via generic 2PC techniques, but the resulting protocols will require communication that is linear in the input length. With *sublinear* communication, however, it is unclear how to perform some of these tasks (or whether it is even possible to do so), even with an *insecure* protocol. We give a (partial) characterization of when such sublinear sampling is possible, and give secure protocols for realizing these functionalities where possible.

**Product sampling and the exponential mechanism.** While  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  sampling are well-studied, to the best of our knowledge, we are the first to consider the notion of product sampling. We describe a concrete, independent application for this new notion: product sampling can be used to implement a distributed version of the well-known exponential mechanism for differentially-private data release [25].

### 1.1 Our Work

We explore the problems described above, providing multiple two-party protocols, all with sub-linear communication, in the semi-honest security model. We note that our protocol for product sampling has additional leakage, beyond what is revealed by the sampling functionality. We characterize exactly what this leakage is, and provide evidence that similar leakage is necessary to achieve sublinear communication. Specifically, we show the following.

**$L_1$  sampling.** We begin by constructing a two-party protocol for  $L_1$  sampling that relies on fully homomorphic encryption (FHE). The main idea behind the protocol is to obviously sample from each of the two parties inputs independently, and then to securely choose one of the two samples using an appropriately biased coin toss. The results are described in Section 2.

**$L_2$  sampling.** We also provide a protocol for secure  $L_2$  sampling that relies on fully homomorphic encryption (see Section 3). In this case, however, achieving

<sup>1</sup> Of course, if  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = 0$ , the probability space is not well-defined, and in this case, we require the protocol to simply output  $\perp$ .

$L_2$  sampling is non-trivial. In fact, even relying on FHE, it is not immediately clear how to compute  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$  with sublinear communication.

Surprisingly, our  $L_2$  sampling protocol runs in constant rounds and with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication<sup>2</sup>. Interestingly, it does not require us to compute  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$ . To achieve this, we developed a novel technique called “corrective sampling”, which we overview in the next subsection. We note that our techniques straightforwardly extend to  $L_p$  sampling, for constant  $p$ .

**Product sampling.** We then turn to product sampling. We assume, without loss of generality, that the vectors  $\mathbf{w}_b$  are normalized (see Section 4 for justification).

We first begin with a communication lowerbound, demonstrating that product sampling with sublinear communication is impossible, even without privacy guarantees, if the two input distributions are insufficiently correlated (i.e.,  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = o(\frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}})$ ). We show this through a reduction from the Set Disjointness problem.

Knowing this lowerbound, we consider the problem under a promise that the input vectors are sufficiently correlated. Assuming that  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = \omega(\frac{\log n}{n})$ , we provide a two-party protocol for secure product sampling leaking (at most) the inner product of the two parties’ inputs. We note that the promise itself leaks some information, so some leakage here is inevitable. Interestingly, we observe that the protocol can be modified to provide a trade-off between the communication cost and the leakage. We also discuss why this trade-off is inherent.

**Constant round product sampling.** Our product sampling protocol has a round complexity that depends on the inner product. In Section 5, we show how to make our construction constant round while incurring small additional leakage. Importantly, we must do this *without computing the exact inner product* which itself requires  $O(n)$  communication [3].

**Two party exponential mechanism.** As mentioned previously, one important application of product sampling is the exponential mechanism for providing differential privacy [25]. Details are in Appendix F in the full version [7].

For this particular application we face an additional challenge: the leakage of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  that we relied on for achieving sub-linear communication in product sampling does not preserve differential privacy. To overcome this issue, we construct a new, differentially-private approximation for inner product, and show how to use this for building a sub-linear communication secure computation of the exponential mechanism.

## 1.2 Technical Overview

In the following, we overload notation and let  $\mathcal{D}$  denote a distribution as well as its probability mass function. As discussed previously, we consider the case

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the paper, we will describe the round and communication complexities using the asymptotic notation only based on  $n$ . That is, all other parameters (e.g., security parameter) independent on  $n$  will be suppressed in the asymptotic expressions.

where a probability mass function is distributed across two parties, and the parties would like to securely sample from the corresponding distribution. We consider several ways in which the probability mass function can be distributed across the two parties.

**$L_1$  sampling of convex combinations.** In this case, party 1 (resp. party 2) holds a vector  $\mathbf{w}_1$  (resp.  $\mathbf{w}_2$ ), indexed from 1 to  $n$ . For  $i \in [n]$ ,  $w_{1,i}/\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1$  (resp.  $w_{2,i}/\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1$ ) corresponds to the probability mass of  $i$  under distribution  $\mathcal{D}_1$  (resp.  $\mathcal{D}_2$ ). The goal of the parties is to sample from the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ , defined as follows for  $i \in [n]$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}[i] &:= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \cdot \frac{w_{1,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1} + \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \cdot \frac{w_{2,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \\ &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \cdot \mathcal{D}_1[i] + \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \cdot \mathcal{D}_2[i]\end{aligned}$$

Note that the target distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  is a convex combination of the distributions  $\mathcal{D}_1$  and  $\mathcal{D}_2$  held by the two parties.

A potentially straightforward sampling protocol is to therefore have party 1 locally draw a sample  $i_1$  from  $\mathcal{D}_1$ , party 2 locally draw a sample  $i_2$  from  $\mathcal{D}_2$ , and then run a secure two party computation that outputs  $i_1$  with probability  $\frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$  and  $i_2$  with probability  $\frac{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$ .

This protocol clearly has sublinear communication, but it unfortunately does not securely realize the ideal functionality. The reason is as follows: conditioned on the ideal functionality outputting a certain index  $i^*$ , the probability that  $i^*$  was drawn by party 1 (resp. party 2) is  $\frac{w_{1,i^*}}{w_{1,i^*} + w_{2,i^*}}$  (resp.  $\frac{w_{2,i^*}}{w_{1,i^*} + w_{2,i^*}}$ ). Thus, if the simulator receives  $i^*$  from the ideal functionality and has to simulate the view of party 1, it needs to set  $i_1 = i^*$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i^*}}{w_{1,i^*} + w_{2,i^*}}$  and set  $i_1 \neq i^*$  with probability  $\frac{w_{2,i^*}}{w_{1,i^*} + w_{2,i^*}}$ . However, the simulator is not able to simulate these probabilities correctly, since it does not know  $w_{2,i^*}$ .

To get around this issue we therefore have the parties sample  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  *obliviously*. To do this with sublinear communication, we can use fully homomorphic encryption (FHE). Specifically, to sample  $i_1$ , player 1 first encrypts his input  $\mathbf{w}_1$  using an FHE scheme for which he does not know the secret key. The players then jointly choose a random value  $r \in [0, \|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1]$ . Player 1 then uses the homomorphic operations to find the value  $i_1$  chosen by this  $r$ , and the parties use threshold decryption to recover a secret sharing of  $i_1$ . The parties reverse roles to sample  $i_2$ . Details of this construction are provided in Section 2.

Additionally, an alternative construction that uses sub-linear OT for the oblivious sampling is provided in Appendix D in the full version.

**$L_2$  Sampling of component-wise sum.** In this case, party 1 (resp. party 2) holds a vector  $\mathbf{w}_1$  (resp.  $\mathbf{w}_2$ ), indexed from 1 to  $n$ . For  $i \in [n]$ . The goal of the parties is to sample from the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  defined as follows for  $i \in [n]$ :

$$\mathcal{D}[i] := \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}.$$

We present a protocol that samples from this distribution with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication. This protocol relies on a novel technique that we call “corrective sampling”, which is an interesting type of rejection sampling. In what follows, we describe an insecure version of our protocol to give the intuition behind it. To make it secure, we carry out the corrective sampling under FHE as described in Protocol 4.

The main challenge that we face here, unlike in the case of  $L_1$  sampling, is that it is impossible to compute  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$  (and therefore impossible to compute  $\mathcal{D}[i]$  for each  $i$ ) with sublinear communication [3]. Instead, we sample index  $i$  from a different, related, distribution, which is easy to sample with sub-linear communication. We then show that we can efficiently correct this distribution by rejecting with the appropriate probability. Interestingly, we show that corrective rejection, which depends on the index  $i$ , doesn’t require us to explicitly compute  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$ . In fact, the parties never learn the corrective term at all!

First, as in rejection sampling, corrective sampling proceeds in trials and in each trial, for every  $i$ , the probability that the protocol successfully samples index  $i$  is  $\alpha \cdot \mathcal{D}[i]$  for some unknown constant  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Since the same constant  $\alpha$  is applied to every index  $i$ , by repeating the trials, the protocol samples index  $i$  correctly without skewing the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ . The expected number of trials is  $1/\alpha$ . We therefore need to keep  $1/\alpha \in O(1)$  to reach our target communication complexity.

As mentioned above, we observe that *the protocol never has to explicitly compute  $\alpha$* . Towards describing how this is done, first note that in  $\mathcal{D}[i]$ , the denominator,  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$  – which we assume for purposes of this exposition is at least 1 – is the same for every  $i$ , so it can be pushed into  $\alpha$  without impacting the discussion above: letting  $\alpha' = \alpha / (\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2)$ , it suffices to implement rejection sampling with a protocol that samples index  $i$  with probability  $\alpha' \cdot (w_{i,1} + w_{i,2})^2 = \alpha \cdot \mathcal{D}[i]$ . This protocol would only need to explicitly compute  $(w_{i,1} + w_{i,2})^2$  (which can be done efficiently given  $i$ ), but not  $\alpha'$ .

Unfortunately, this does not quite work.  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$  can be very large, which would then make  $1/\alpha'$  large. We therefore must combine the above with another idea to ensure that our corrective term introduces at most a  $O(1)$  overhead.

We achieve this by having each trial of the protocol work as follows:

1. It samples index  $i$  from distribution  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}$ , which is easy to sample. We note that the contribution of this distribution will be eventually canceled out through rejection. In particular, we choose the following distribution for  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}$ :

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}[i] := \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + w_{2,i}^2}{\text{denom}},$$

where we set  $\text{denom} = \|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$  to make the distribution well-defined. Note that  $\text{denom}$  can be computed with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication.

2. After sampling  $i$  from  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}$ , the protocol computes a “corrective bias” for a coin flip that is dependent on  $(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2$ . We stress that once  $i$  is determined, computing  $(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2$  is easy. In particular, a coin is flipped

with the following bias:

$$\Pr[\text{coin}|i] := \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2}{2 \cdot \mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}[i] \cdot \text{denom}}$$

Overall, this makes sure that the probability that each trial outputs index  $i$  is

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{ignore}}[i] \cdot \Pr[\text{coin}|i] = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2}{2 \cdot \text{denom}} = \alpha \mathcal{D}[i],$$

where  $\alpha = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}{2 \cdot \text{denom}}$ .

To conclude that this is a valid and efficient sampling procedure, we need to show the following:

- $\alpha$  must be less than 1 for the procedure to be valid. This is implied by the fact that  $\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2 \leq 2 \cdot \text{denom}$ .
- $1/\alpha$  must be in  $\tilde{O}(1)$  so that the procedure is efficient. We have  $2 \cdot \text{denom} \leq 2\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$ , which implies that  $\alpha$  is at least  $1/2$ . So, the expected number of trials is at most 2.

We extend our techniques to the setting of  $L_p$  sampling for constant  $p$  in Section 3.3.

**Product sampling.** In this case, party 1 (resp. party 2) holds a normalized vector  $\mathbf{w}_1$  (resp.  $\mathbf{w}_2$ ), indexed from 1 to  $n$ . For  $i \in [n]$ ,  $w_{1,i}$  (resp.  $w_{2,i}$ ) corresponds to the probability mass of  $i$  under distribution  $\mathcal{D}_1$  (resp.  $\mathcal{D}_2$ ).<sup>3</sup> The goal of the parties is to sample from the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  defined as follows for  $i \in [n]$ :

$$\mathcal{D}[i] := \frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}.$$

We begin by noting (via a simple reduction from Set Disjointness) that it is impossible to achieve sublinear product sampling when no restrictions are placed on the inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ . We further show (via a more complex reduction from Set Disjointness) that for every protocol  $\Pi$  (parametrized by dimension  $n$ ) that correctly samples from  $\mathcal{D}$ , there are inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1 := \mathbf{w}_1(n), \mathbf{w}_2 := \mathbf{w}_2(n)$ , with  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \in \Omega(1/n^2)$ , that require linear communication complexity. See Section 4.1 for details.

This means that in order to achieve sublinear communication complexity, we would need—at the minimum—a promise on the inputs that guarantees that  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \in \omega(1/n^2)$ . We then present a protocol that has the following properties:

- When  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \in \omega(\log n/n)$ , the protocol achieves *expected* communication  $\frac{\log n}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}$ .
- The execution of the protocol leaks nothing more than the sampled output, and  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . This is formalized via an Ideal/Real paradigm simulation, in which the simulator receives leakage of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  in the Ideal world.

<sup>3</sup> Here the assumption that  $\mathbf{w}$  are normalized is without loss of generality.

The idea for the protocol is the following. The protocol proceeds in rounds: in round  $j$ , party 1 and 2 obviously sample values  $i_1, i_2$  from  $\mathcal{D}_1, \mathcal{D}_2$ , respectively (as described for  $L_1$  sampling). Then the parties run a secure protocol that checks whether  $i_1 = i_2$ . If yes, they output  $i_1$ . Otherwise, the parties repeat the process in the next round.

The main technical portion of our security analysis is to show that the number of rounds (which is the only information leaked) is distributed as a geometric distribution with success probability  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . This implies that the expected number of rounds is  $1/\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , and furthermore, it implies that a simulator who knows  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  can simulate the terminating round by making a draw from this geometric distribution. See Section 4.2 for more details. There, we also describe how we can pad the communication cost to the worst-case, which depends on the given promise, thereby removing the leakage of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

**Product sampling in constant rounds.** The protocol presented above for product sampling required a large number of rounds stemming from the iterative rejection sampling procedure. We now consider how to parallelize this process. To do so, we need to compute the inner product in order to determine, a priori, how many samples will suffice. However, computing this value requires  $O(n)$  communication [3]!

The natural thing to do is therefore to use an approximation to the inner product that can be computed with sublinear communication. However, when replacing an exact computation of a function  $f(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  with an approximation  $\tilde{f}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2; r)$ , one needs to be careful that *more* information is not leaked by the output. Specifically, Ishai et al. [14,15] introduced the notion of secure multiparty computation of approximations and, loosely speaking, their security definition says that the approximate computation is secure if its output can be simulated from the exactly correct output. While our result falls slightly short of that definition, we are still able to give a rigorous guarantee on the amount of additional information leaked by our approximate functionality. Specifically, we present an approximate functionality  $\tilde{f}$  and prove that the output of  $\tilde{f}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2; r)$  can be simulated given both the exactly correct output  $f(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  (where  $f$  is the inner product), as well as the  $L_2$  norms of the individual inputs.

To achieve this, we use a sublinear protocol from the Johnson-Lindenstrauss Transform (JLT) to approximate the dot product of the input vectors. This can be done with sublinear communication by having the parties jointly sample a  $k \times n$  JLT matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  for  $k \ll n$  by choosing a short seed and expanding it under FHE. The rest of the computation is then done by communicating vectors  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_i$ , which are of length  $k$  rather than  $n$ . Based on this approximation, the parties can obviously pre-sample a number of inputs that is sufficient with all but negligible probability, and then input them into a constant round secure computation protocol.

Our contribution here, is to show that this variant protocol only requires additional leakage of  $\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2, \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$ , beyond what is already leaked by the original protocol (i.e., the inner product). Our analysis may be of independent interest, since it shows that given  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle, \|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2, \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2$ , the values  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_2$

can be efficiently sampled from exactly the correct distribution, when  $\mathbf{M}$  is a JLT matrix, and is kept private from both parties. We prove this result by analyzing the underlying joint multivariate normal distributions corresponding to  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_2$ , and showing that the mean and covariance (which fully determine the distribution) depend *only* on the values  $\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2, \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2$ , and  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . See Section 5 for more details.

**Applications to distributed exponential mechanism.** We first briefly describe the connection between product sampling and the exponential mechanism. Ignoring many details, the joint exponential mechanism  $M$  outputs a value  $i$  on input  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  with probability proportional to

$$w_i = e^{c \cdot f(x_i)} = e^{c \cdot f(x_{1,i} + x_{2,i})},$$

where  $c$  is some constant,  $f$  is some scoring function, and the data values  $x_i$  are partitioned between the two parties (as  $x_{1,i}, x_{2,i}$ ). If the scoring function  $f$  is linear, it holds that  $f(x_{1,i} + x_{2,i}) = f(x_{1,i}) + f(x_{2,i})$ , and, letting  $w_{b,i} = e^{c \cdot f(x_{b,i})}$ , we can rewrite  $w_i$  as follows:

$$w_i = w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}.$$

Therefore, using product sampling, the parties can sample each item  $i$  with probability proportional to  $w_i$ .

Based on this connection, we present an application of our constant-round, product sampling protocol to realize a two-party exponential mechanism in Appendix ???. However, to use our sampling protocol in this application, we must show that the leakage of our protocols preserves the differential privacy guarantee. We indeed prove that our constant-round JLT-based protocol can achieve differential privacy—even when the JLT matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  is public—by adding correctly distributed noise to  $\langle \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . This allows parties to execute the exponential mechanism when the cost function is additively distributed across the two parties, with sublinear communication, in the case that  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \in \omega(\log n/n)$ .

### 1.3 Related Work

**Sampling from streaming data.** Many prior papers (e.g. [10,16,22,27,35]) have studied the problem of sampling data from a data stream. In this setting the goal is to achieve  $L_p$  sampling for arbitrary  $p$  without having to process or store all the streaming data, thus requiring sublinear computation. These works generally operate in the one-party setting and do not consider privacy.

**Secure multiparty sampling.** A few prior works [31,32] have investigated the problem of two and multi-party private sampling in the information theoretic setting. These works focus on identifying the necessary setup to enable sampling from various distributions. We instead focus on the computational setting, and focus on reducing communication. Recently, Champion et al. [6] also considered the computational setting, but they focus on sampling from a publicly-known distribution whereas we sample from a private one.



**Secure multiparty computation of differentially private functionalities.**

Starting with the work of Dwork et al. [11] there has been a good amount of work (e.g. [1,9,13,17,29,30]) on using MPC to realize differentially private functionalities to protect the privacy of individual inputs given the output of the MPC. These works have focused on building efficient, private applications in machine learning and other fields, whereas we focus on reducing the communication necessary for the specific functionalities of sampling.

**Secure sketching.** A long line of work [12,19,26,34,8] has investigated building secure sketches for securely estimating statistics of Tor usage, web traffic, and other applications. These works focus on building sublinear communication and computation protocols for computing specific statistics such as unique count, median, etc.

## 2 Two-party $L_1$ Sampling

In this section, we describe a secure two-party  $L_1$  sampling protocol. Given two  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1 = (w_{1,1}, \dots, w_{1,n})$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2 = (w_{2,1}, \dots, w_{2,n})$  as the private inputs from parties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively, the protocol samples from the  $L_1$  distribution according to  $\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2$ .

**Notation:  $L_p$  norm.** Let  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be a non-zero vector. The  $L_p$  norm  $\|\mathbf{w}\|_p$  of  $\mathbf{w}$  is defined as  $\|\mathbf{w}\|_p := \left( \sum_j |w_j|^p \right)^{1/p}$ . When there is no subscript, it means  $L_2$  norm; that is,  $\|\mathbf{w}\| := \|\mathbf{w}\|_2$

**Assumptions.** Throughout the paper, we assume that the values  $w_{b,i}$  are represented by fixed-point precision numbers, and consider the cost of communicating such a number to be independent of  $n$ . We assume all weights in vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  are non-negative.

**Ideal functionality.** We first define an ideal functionality for the two-party  $L_1$  sampling. Slightly abusing the notation, let  $L_1(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  be a two-input sampling procedure based on the  $L_1$  distribution of  $\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2$ :

$$\Pr[L_1(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) \text{ samples } i] = \frac{w_{1,i} + w_{2,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_1}.$$

We give a more formal description of the functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}$  in the figure below. In Section 2.2, we present a protocol that securely realizes this functionality.

<p style="text-align: center;"><math>\mathcal{F}_{L_1}</math>: Ideal functionality for two-party <math>L_1</math> sampling</p> <p>The functionality has the following parameter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <math>n \in \mathbb{N}</math>. The dimension of the input weight vectors <math>\mathbf{w}_1</math> and <math>\mathbf{w}_2</math>.</li> </ul> <p>The functionality proceeds as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive inputs <math>\mathbf{w}_1</math> and <math>\mathbf{w}_2</math> from <math>P_1</math> and <math>P_2</math> respectively.</li> <li>2. Sample <math>i \in [n]</math> with probability <math>\frac{w_{1,i} + w_{2,i}}{\ \mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\ _1}</math></li> <li>3. Send <math>i</math> to <math>P_1</math> and <math>P_2</math>.</li> </ol>
---

## 2.1 A toy protocol towards securely realizing $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}$

We describe our first attempt, which is insecure, but provides good intuition on how we construct a secure protocol. In fact, the attack on this broken protocol, as well as the fix presented in the next sub-section, remain relevant when we move to product sampling and  $L_2$  sampling as well. Since we assume that all the weights are non-negative, we observe that letting  $p = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$ , the above measure can be re-written as follows:

$$\Pr[L_1(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) \text{ samples } i] = \frac{w_{1,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1} \cdot p + \frac{w_{2,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \cdot (1 - p). \quad (1)$$

Equation (1) leads us to the following natural approach.

1. Party  $P_1$  samples  $i_1$  from the  $L_1$  distribution according to  $\mathbf{w}_1$ , such that  $\Pr[P_1 \text{ samples } i_1] = \frac{w_{1,i_1}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}$ .
2. Party  $P_2$  samples  $i_2$  from the  $L_1$  distribution according to  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , such that  $\Pr[P_2 \text{ samples } i_2] = \frac{w_{2,i_2}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$ .
3. Then,  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  execute a secure protocol for the following procedure:
  - (a) Execute a coin toss protocol with bias  $p$ . Let  $b$  be the output of the coin-flip.
  - (b) If  $b = 0$  (resp.,  $b = 1$ ), output  $i_1$  (resp.,  $i_2$ ).

The output of the protocol will achieve correct sampling.

**Insecurity of the protocol.** However, this protocol has a subtle security issue. For example, let  $i$  be the eventual output index of the protocol. Then, we have the following:

- If the coin flip  $b$  is 0, which happens with probability  $p$ , it holds that  $i$  is always the same as  $i_1$ .
- On the other hand, if the coin flip  $b$  is 1, then  $i$  will be the same as  $i_1$  if and only if  $i_2 = i_1$ , which happens with probability  $\frac{w_{2,i_1}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$ .

This implies that we have

$$\Pr[i = i_1 | i_1] = p + (1 - p) \cdot \frac{w_{2,i_1}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}$$

Now consider a distinguisher that corrupts  $P_1$ , chooses inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , and checks the above conditional probability, which is possible *since the distinguisher can also see  $i_1$  through the corrupted  $P_1$* . To prove security, we should be able to construct a simulator for  $P_1$  that fools this distinguisher. However, a simulator for  $P_1$  doesn't know  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , which causes the above conditional probability to be unsimulatable.

In a sense, by having  $P_1$  choose  $i_1$ , the protocol allows  $P_1$  to measure the conditional probability  $\Pr[i = i_1 | i_1]$ , which depends on the value  $w_{2,i_1}$  thereby leaking information about  $P_2$ 's input to  $P_1$ .

## 2.2 Secure $L_1$ sampling protocol

**Oblivious sampling.** We address the insecurity of the toy protocol by having the parties sample *obliviously* from  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ . This way, each party would not know whether the final output index matches the sample taken from its own vector, or the sample taken from the other party's vector. Specifically, we will construct our protocol under the framework described below:

1. The parties obliviously sample  $i_1$  according to  $L_1$  distribution of  $\mathbf{w}_1$ . The output index  $i_1$  is secret shared between the two parties. Let  $\langle i_1 \rangle$  denote the secret share of  $i_1$ . Likewise, they obliviously sample  $\langle i_2 \rangle$  from  $L_1$  distribution of  $\mathbf{w}_2$ .
2. Execute a secure two-party protocol to compute the following:
  - (a) Flip a coin  $b$  with bias  $p$ .
  - (b) If  $b = 0$ , output the decryption of  $i_1$ ; otherwise output the decryption of  $i_2$ .

**Ideal functionalities.** Formally, we define an ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  as follows:

<p><math>\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}</math>: Ideal functionality for oblivious <math>L_1</math> sampling.</p> <p>The functionality considers two participants, the sender and the receiver. The functionality is parameterized with a number <math>n</math>.</p> <p><b>Inputs:</b> The sender has an <math>n</math>-dimensional weight vector <math>\mathbf{w}</math>. The receiver has no input.</p> <p>The functionality proceeds as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive <math>\mathbf{w}</math> from the sender.</li> <li>2. Sample <math>i \in [n]</math> with probability <math>\frac{w_i}{\ \mathbf{w}\ _1}</math>.</li> <li>3. Choose a random pad <math>\pi \in \{0, 1\}^\ell</math>, where <math>\ell = \lceil \log_2 n \rceil</math>.</li> <li>4. Send <math>\pi</math> to the sender and <math>i \oplus \pi</math> to the receiver.</li> </ol>
--

We also give an ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}}$  for the biased coin tossing.

<p><math>\mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}}</math>: Ideal functionality for biased coin tossing.</p> <p>The functionality considers two participants <math>P_1</math> and <math>P_2</math> and proceeds as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive a number <math>s_1</math> as input from <math>P_1</math> and <math>s_2</math> from <math>P_2</math>.</li> <li>2. Flip a coin <math>b</math> with bias <math>p = \frac{s_1}{s_1 + s_2}</math>.</li> <li>3. Choose a random bit <math>r \in \{0, 1\}</math>.</li> <li>4. Send <math>r</math> to <math>P_1</math> and <math>r \oplus b</math> to the receiver.</li> </ol>
---

**$L_1$  sampling protocol.** Based on the above functionalities, we describe a protocol securely realizing  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}$  in the  $(\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}})$ -hybrid.

**Theorem 1.** *Protocol 1 securely realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}$  with semi-honest security in the  $(\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}})$ -hybrid.*

---

**Protocol 1** Two-party  $L_1$  sampling in the  $(\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}})$ -hybrid.

---

**Inputs:** Party  $P_b$  has input  $\mathbf{w}_b$ .

1. Execute  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  with  $P_1$  as a sender with input  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $P_2$  as a receiver. Let  $\langle i_1 \rangle$  be the secret share of the output index.
  2. Execute  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  with  $P_2$  as a sender with input  $\mathbf{w}_2$  and  $P_1$  as a receiver. Let  $\langle i_2 \rangle$  be the secret share of the output index.
  3. Execute  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}}$  where  $P_1$  has input  $\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1$  and  $P_2$  has input  $\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1$ . Let  $\langle b \rangle$  be the secret share of the output bit.
  4. Execute  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  for the following circuit:
    - (a) Input:  $\langle i_1 \rangle, \langle i_2 \rangle, \langle b \rangle$ .
    - (b) Output:  $i_1 \cdot (1 - b) + i_2 \cdot b$ .
- 

The proof is found in Appendix C.1 in the full version.

**Securely realizing  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  with threshold FHE.** The main idea of the protocol is having the parties securely sample a random number  $r$  from  $[s]$ , where  $s := \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$ . Our construction is found in Protocol 2.

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**Protocol 2** Oblivious sampling from threshold FHE

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**Inputs:** The sender has input  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$ .

1. The sender computes  $s := \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$ .
  2. The sender and the receiver execute  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  to uniformly sample  $r$  from the range  $[0, s)$ . This is possible, since  $s$  has a fixed point representation. Let  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  be the secret share of  $r$  given to  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively.
  3. The sender and the receiver set up a threshold FHE scheme. The plaintext space of the FHE is  $GF(2)$ , which allows homomorphic bitwise-xor and bitwise-AND operations. Let  $\llbracket m \rrbracket$  denote an FHE encryption of plaintext  $m$  which can be a bit or bits depending on the context.
  4. The receiver sends  $\llbracket r_2 \rrbracket$  so that the sender can compute  $\llbracket r \rrbracket := \llbracket r_1 \rrbracket \oplus \llbracket r_2 \rrbracket$ .
  5. The sender homomorphically evaluates the following circuit:
    - (a) Let  $\text{cnt}_0 = 0$ . For  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $\text{cnt}_j = \text{cnt}_{j-1} + w_j$ .
    - (b) Output  $i \in [1, n]$  such that  $r \in [\text{cnt}_{i-1}, \text{cnt}_i]$ .
 Let  $\llbracket i \rrbracket$  be the output encryption from the above homomorphic evaluation.
  6. The sender chooses a random pad  $\pi$ , and then it sends  $\llbracket c \rrbracket = \llbracket i \rrbracket \oplus \llbracket \pi \rrbracket$  to the receiver.
  7. The two parties perform threshold decryption so that  $c$  is decrypted to the receiver.
  8. The sender outputs  $\pi$  and the receiver outputs the decryption of  $c$ .
- 

**Theorem 2.** Assuming the existence of threshold FHE with IND-CPA security, Protocol 2 securely realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  in the semi-honest security model.

The proof is found in Appendix C.2 in the full version.

We note that we give another construction that relies on sub-linear 1-out-of- $m$  oblivious transfer (OT), but requires computation that is exponential in the bit precision in Appendix D in the full version.

**Securely realizing  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}}$ .** The secure construction for  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{biasCoin}}$  is straightforward and can be found in Appendix B in the full version.

### 3 Two Party $L_2$ Sampling

In this section we consider the two-party  $L_2$  sampling functionality. Given input vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ , this functionality samples from the distribution  $D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  with the following probability mass function:

$$\Pr[D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) \text{ samples } i] = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2}{\sum_j (w_{1,j} + w_{2,j})^2} = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}.$$

We begin by presenting a non-private protocol for two-party  $L_2$  sampling with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication in Section 3.1, the construction is found in Protocol 3. We then show how to implement the protocol securely in Section 3.2.

#### 3.1 A non-private $L_2$ sampling protocol with $\tilde{O}(1)$ communication

We begin by defining and showing how to sample from a helper distribution  $D_{\text{ignore}}$ .

**Definition 1.** For input vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ , let  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  be the distribution that “ignores” the cross term in  $D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$ . I.e.  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  samples index  $i \in [n]$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i}^2 + w_{2,i}^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}$ .

**Lemma 1.** There exists a protocol  $\Pi_{\text{ignore}}$  for sampling from  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathbf{w}'_b = (w_{b,1}^2, \dots, w_{b,n}^2)$ . The lemma follows by observing the following:

$$D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = D_{L_1}(\mathbf{w}'_1, \mathbf{w}'_2).$$

□

**Definition 2.** For  $i \in [n]$ , let the corrective parameter function be defined as

$$f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) := \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}.$$

**Definition 3.** The constant  $c := c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  is defined as

$$c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) := \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}$$

This ensures that for every  $i$ ,  $f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) = c \cdot \Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]$ .

The following lemma will be useful for arguing the validity of the final protocol.

**Lemma 2.** *For all  $i \in \text{supp}(D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2))$ ,  $\Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] \leq 2/c \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]$ .*

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] &= \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + 2\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2} \\ &= \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2}{c \cdot (\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2)} \\ &\leq \frac{2 \cdot (w_{1,i}^2 + w_{2,i}^2)}{c \cdot (\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2)} \\ &= \frac{2}{c} \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] \end{aligned}$$

The inequality holds since

$$\begin{aligned} 2(w_{1,i}^2 + w_{2,i}^2) - (w_{1,i}^2 + 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2) &= w_{1,i}^2 - 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2 \\ &= (w_{1,i} - w_{2,i})^2 \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

□

We now present the  $L_2$  sampling protocol  $\Pi_{L_2}$ , which is described in Protocol 3. We show the correctness and efficiency of the protocol.

**Lemma 3.** *With all but negligible probability, on inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ ,  $\Pi_{L_2}$  samples exactly correctly from  $D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$ , and has communication  $\tilde{O}(1)$ .*

*Proof.* Note that  $\Pi_{L_2}$  simply performs rejection sampling in a distributed setting where sampling from  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  and computing the probabilities is done in a distributed manner. It is therefore well-known that as long as for all  $i \in [n]$ ,

$$\Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] \leq 2/c \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i], \quad (2)$$

then  $\Pi_{L_2}$  samples from the exact correct distribution, and the number of samples required from  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  in protocol  $\Pi_{L_2}$  follows a geometric distribution with probability  $c/2$ . Thus, if condition (2) is met, the protocol samples exactly correctly and completes in an expected  $2/c$  (with  $2/c \leq 2$ , since  $c \geq 1$ ) number of rounds. Further, it can be immediately noted that condition (2) is met due to Lemma 2. Finally, each round has  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication, since  $\Pi_{\text{ignore}}$  has communication  $\tilde{O}(1)$  (by Lemma 1) and since, in addition to that, only a constant number of length  $\tilde{O}(1)$  values are exchanged in each round. Combining the above, we have that  $\Pi_{L_2}$  has expected communication  $\tilde{O}(1)$  and worst case (with all but negligible probability) communication  $\tilde{O}(1)$ . □

*Remark 1.* Note that the protocol and analysis above did not require that vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$  are normalized. I.e. we do not require that  $\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1$  or  $\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1$  are equal to 1 or to each other.

**Protocol 3** Protocol for exact  $L_2$  sampling ( $\Pi_{L_2}$ )

**Inputs:** Parties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  have inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  respectively.

The protocol proceeds as follows:

1. Parties run  $\Pi_{\text{ignore}}$  with inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$  that samples from  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  and obtain output  $i$ .
2. For  $b \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $P_b$  sends  $w_{b,i}, \|\mathbf{w}_b\|_2^2$ . Both parties compute

$$\Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] = \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + w_{2,i}^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2} \quad \text{and} \quad f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) = \frac{w_{1,i}^2 + 2w_{1,i}w_{2,i} + w_{2,i}^2}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2^2}$$

3. Parties output  $i$  with probability

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i)}{2 \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} &= \frac{c \cdot \Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]}{2 \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} \\ &= \frac{\Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]}{2/c \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} \end{aligned}$$

and otherwise return to step 1.

### 3.2 Secure $L_2$ Sampling From FHE

**$L_2$  sampling protocol.** We present our secure  $L_2$  sampling protocol in Protocol 4. For two  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , we denote by  $\mathbf{w}_1 \odot \mathbf{w}_2$  the  $n$ -dimensional vector whose  $i$ -th entry is equal to  $w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}$ .

Our  $L_2$  sampling protocol uses ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}^{ss}$ , which works essentially the same as  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}$  except that the output index is secret shared among both parties. We can securely realize this functionality with semi-honest security through a trivial change in the protocol  $\Pi_{L_1}$ ; for the sake of completeness, we provide the details in Appendix E in the full version.

**Efficiency and correctness.** It is clear that the total communication complexity of the protocol is  $\tilde{O}(1)$ , since each step in the loop has complexity  $\tilde{O}(1)$  and the loop iterates  $B \in \tilde{O}(1)$  number of times. Correctness is also immediate, since the protocol simply implements the  $\Pi_{L_2}$  sampling procedure, which was proven in Section 3.1 to be correct, and to require at most  $B \in \tilde{O}(1)$  samples, with all but negligible probability,

**Security.** Security of our protocol is stated through the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.** *Assuming the existence of threshold FHE with IND-CPA security, Protocol 4 securely realizes the  $L_2$  sampling functionality in the  $\{\mathcal{F}_{L_1}^{ss}, \mathcal{F}_{2PC}\}$ -hybrid model with semi-honest security.*

We provide the proof in Appendix C.3 in the full version.

**Protocol 4** Two-party  $L_2$  sampling in the  $(\mathcal{F}_{L_1}, F_{2PC})$ -hybrid.**Inputs:** Party  $P_b$  has input  $\mathbf{w}_b$ .

1. Let  $B \in \tilde{O}(1)$ . The parties perform the following steps for  $j \in [B]$ :
  - (a) Sample from  $D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  by doing the following: Invoke ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{L_1}^{ss}$  with  $P_1$ 's input set to  $\mathbf{w}_1 \odot \mathbf{w}_1$  and  $P_2$ 's input set to  $\mathbf{w}_2 \odot \mathbf{w}_2$ . Let  $\langle i_j \rangle$  be the secret share of the output index.
  - (b) Parties compute encryptions of  $w_{1,i_j}, w_{2,i_j}$  using a threshold FHE scheme as follows.
    - Parties compute an encryption of  $i_j$  by exchanging encryptions of their shares and adding them.
    - Party  $b$  encrypts  $\mathbf{w}_b$  and uses FHE to locally compute an encryption of  $w_{b,i_j}$ .
    - The parties then send these ciphertexts to each other.
  - (c) Rejection Sampling. Compute a threshold FHE ciphertext  $\widehat{\text{bias}}_j$  that encrypts

$$\frac{f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)_{i_j}}{2 \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i_j]} = \frac{w_{1,i_j}^2 + 2w_{1,i_j}w_{2,i_j} + w_{2,i_j}^2}{2(w_{1,i_j}^2 + w_{2,i_j}^2)}.$$

Invoke ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  that takes encrypted bias  $\widehat{\text{bias}}_j$ , the threshold decryption keys, index  $i_j$ , and random bits. The functionality executes a circuit that flips a coin with bias  $\widehat{\text{bias}}_j$  and returns a ciphertext  $\widehat{\text{out}}_j$ , which is an encryption of  $i_j$  if the coin evaluates to 1 and an encryption of 0 otherwise.

2. Execute  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  for the following circuit:
  - (a) Input:  $(\widehat{\text{out}}_1, \dots, \widehat{\text{out}}_B)$  and threshold decryption keys.
  - (b) Output:  $i_j$  corresponding to the minimum  $j$  such that  $\widehat{\text{out}}_j$  decrypts to  $i_j \neq 0$ . Or  $\perp$  if no such  $j \in [B]$  exists.

**3.3 A non-private  $L_p$  sampling protocol with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication**

In this section we present a  $\tilde{O}(1)$  sampling protocol for  $L_p$  sampling for constant  $p$ . We present only the insecure version, extending it to a secure sampling protocol can be done entirely analogously to the construction for  $L_2$  sampling given in Section 3.2.

Given input vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ ,  $L_p$  sampling refers to sampling from the distribution  $D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  with the following probability mass function:

$$\Pr[D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) \text{ samples } i] = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^p}{\sum_j (w_{1,j} + w_{2,j})^p} = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}.$$

We begin by defining and showing how to sample from a helper distribution  $D_{\text{ignore},p}$ .

**Definition 4.** For input vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ , let  $D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  be the distribution that “ignores” the cross term in  $D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$ . I.e.  $D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  samples index  $i \in [n]$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i}^p + w_{2,i}^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_p^p + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}$ .



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**Protocol 5** Protocol for exact  $L_p$  sampling ( $\Pi_{L_p}$ )
 

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**Inputs:** Parties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  have inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  respectively.

The protocol proceeds as follows:

1. Parties run  $\Pi_{\text{ignore}}$  with inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$  that samples from  $D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  and obtain output  $i$ .
2. For  $b \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $P_b$  sends  $w_{b,i}, \|\mathbf{w}_b\|_p^p$ . Both parties compute

$$\Pr_{D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] = \frac{w_{1,i}^p + w_{2,i}^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_p^p + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p} \quad \text{and} \quad f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) = \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_p^p + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}$$

3. Parties output  $i$  with probability

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i)}{2^{p-1} \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} &= \frac{c \cdot \Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]}{2^{p-1} \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} \\ &= \frac{\Pr_{D_{L_2}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]}{2^{p-1}/c \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]} \end{aligned}$$

and otherwise return to step 1.

---

**Lemma 4.** *There exists a protocol  $\Pi_{\text{ignore}}$  for sampling from  $D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  with  $\tilde{O}(1)$  communication.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathbf{w}'_b = (w_{b,1}^p, \dots, w_{b,n}^p)$ . The lemma follows by observing the following:

$$D_{\text{ignore}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = D_{L_1}(\mathbf{w}'_1, \mathbf{w}'_2).$$

□

**Definition 5.** *For  $i \in [n]$ , let the corrective parameter function be defined as*

$$f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) := \frac{(w_{1,i} + w_{2,i})^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_p^p + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}.$$

**Definition 6.** *The constant  $c := c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  is defined as*

$$c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) := \frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_p^p + \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_p^p}$$

*This ensures that for every  $i$ ,  $f_c(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, i) = c \cdot \Pr_{D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i]$ .*

The following lemma will be useful for arguing the validity of the final protocol.

**Lemma 5.** *For all  $i \in \text{supp}(D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2))$ ,*

$$\Pr_{D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i] \leq 2^{p-1}/c \cdot \Pr_{D_{\text{ignore},p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}[i].$$

The proof is found in Appendix C.4 in the full version.

We now present the  $L_p$  sampling protocol  $\Pi_{L_p}$  in Protocol 5. We show the correctness and efficiency of the protocol below.

**Lemma 6.** *With all but negligible probability, on inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , protocol  $\Pi_{L_p}$  samples exactly correctly from  $D_{L_p}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$ . Further, for any constant  $p$ , the protocol has communication  $\tilde{O}(1)$ .*

The proof is found in Appendix C.5 in the full version. We note that this result strictly generalizes Lemma 3. In particular, setting  $p = 2$  in the above protocol yields a protocol with exactly the same parameters as the  $L_2$  sampling protocol.

## 4 Two-party Product Sampling

We next consider the problem of two-party sampling from a product distribution. Specifically, given  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1 = (w_{1,1}, \dots, w_{1,n})$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2 = (w_{2,1}, \dots, w_{2,n})$  as the private inputs from  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively, we wish to sample from the distribution  $D_{\text{prod}}$  defined by

$$\Pr[D_{\text{prod}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = i] = \frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\sum_{j=1}^n w_{1,j} \cdot w_{2,j}} = \frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}$$

Of course, if  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = 0$ , the probability space is not well-defined, and in this case, we require the protocol to simply output  $\perp$ .

As before, we assume that all weights in  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  are non-negative.

**Ideal functionality.** We now define an ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{prod}}$  for two-party product sampling. This functionality is parametrized by a function  $f_{\text{Leak}}$  capturing the leakage that the functionality gives to the adversary.

$\mathcal{F}_{\text{prod}}$ : Ideal functionality for two-party product sampling

The functionality has the following parameters:

- $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The dimension of the input weight vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ .
- A function  $f_{\text{Leak}}$  describing the leakage.

The functionality proceeds as follows:

1. Receive inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  from  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively.
2. Compute  $\text{leak} = f_{\text{Leak}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$
3. If  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = 0$ , send  $\text{leak}$  to the adversary and  $\perp$  to  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .
4. Otherwise, sample  $i$  with probability  $\frac{w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i}}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}$ , send  $\text{leak}$  to the adversary, and send  $i$  to  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

#### 4.1 Impossibility of sublinear product sampling

Our goal is to find a protocol for two-party sampling with sublinear (in  $n$ ) communication. However, unlike the case for  $L_1$  sampling, we show that this goal is actually impossible. Roughly speaking, if parties are allowed to have arbitrary input vectors, then a sublinear communication solution to product sampling implies a sublinear communication solution to the disjointness problem, which is known to be impossible.

For our impossibility result, we first define the two-party disjointness problem.

**Disjointness problem.** The disjointness problem checks if two input sets  $S$  and  $T$  are disjoint (i.e.,  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ ). Specifically, we consider a function  $\text{DISJ}^n : \{0, 1\}^n \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  defined as:

$$\text{DISJ}^n(v_S, v_T) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \langle v_S, v_T \rangle = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In the above,  $v_S$  and  $v_T$  are the characteristic vectors of  $S$  and  $T$  respectively. The communication complexity of the solution to the disjointness problem is known to have a linear lowerbound, as shown in the following Theorem:

**Theorem 4 ([33,24,4]).** *For any (even non-private) two-party protocol  $\Pi$  where each party holds  $v_S$  and  $v_T$  respectively, if  $\Pi$  computes  $\text{DISJ}^n(v_S, v_T)$  correctly with probability at least  $2/3$ , the communication complexity of  $\Pi$  is  $\Theta(n)$ .*

**Our impossibility result.** We first observe that a simple reduction from Disjointness gives us that is impossible to achieve sublinear product sampling. Specifically, disjointness can be directly learned from whether the product sampling protocol outputs  $\perp$  or not.

Our impossibility result is stronger. We show that it is impossible to achieve sublinear product sampling *even when the product sampling protocol is executed with input vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  in which all coordinates are bounded away from 0*, which in particular guarantees that  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  is bounded away from 0.

Before stating a formal theorem below, for  $0 < \gamma < 1$ , we first define  $\gamma$ -heaviness; we say that a vector  $\mathbf{w}$  is  $\gamma$ -heavy when each coordinate of  $\mathbf{w}$  is a number contained in  $[\gamma, 1]$ .

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  be  $\gamma$ -heavy vectors of length  $n$ , each respectively held by  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Assume there exists a two-party protocol  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}$  for the product sampling from  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , with communication at most  $C := C(n, \gamma)$ .*

*Then, for any  $\gamma \leq 1/2n$ , there exists a constant  $\rho$  and a probabilistic protocol computing  $\text{DISJ}^n$  correctly with probability at least  $2/3$  that has communication at most  $\log(n) + 1 + \rho \cdot (C + 1)$ .*

**Proof of Theorem 5** We construct a protocol computing  $\text{DISJ}^n$  by taking advantage of  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}$  as follows:

**The protocol for  $\text{DISJ}^n$**

Parties **A** and **B** each get as input a vector  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \in \{0, 1\}^n$ . The goal is to output 1 if the vectors are “disjoint” and 0 otherwise.

Edge Case: If one of the parties’ inputs has Hamming weight 0, then they output 1 and send 1 to the other party. From now on, we assume that the Hamming weight of each party’s input is at least 1.

Preamble: We call the party with the lower Hamming weight input the *designated party*. To determine this, **A** sends to **B** the Hamming weight of its input vector  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}$ . If **B**’s input has higher Hamming weight, it sends back the bit 1 to **A**; otherwise it sends 0.

Input Transformation: Let  $g_\gamma : \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a boosting function defined as  $g_\gamma(0) = \gamma$  and  $g_\gamma(1) = 1$ . Each party **A**, **B** locally transforms their input vector  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  to  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  by applying the boosting function in order to ensure  $\gamma$ -heaviness. That is, for  $i \in [n]$ , set  $a_i = g_\gamma(\tilde{a}_i)$  and  $b_i = g_\gamma(\tilde{b}_i)$ .

Sampling Protocol: The parties run the sampling protocol  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$  and both receive some output  $i^*$ .

Output Computation: The *designated party* checks the  $i^*$ th bit of its input by which we denote  $x$  (i.e.,  $x = \tilde{a}_{i^*}$  or  $x = \tilde{b}_{i^*}$  depending on which party is the designated party). It sends  $1 - x$  to the other party. Both parties output  $1 - x$ .

The following lemmas give the completeness and soundness of the protocol.

**Lemma 7.** *If  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  are disjoint, then the parties both output 1 with probability at least  $\frac{1}{2+n\cdot\gamma}$ .*

**Lemma 8.** *If  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  are not disjoint, then the parties both output 1 with probability at most  $1 - \frac{1}{1+n\cdot\gamma}$ .*

Before we prove the lemmas, we briefly describe how we can use these lemmas to achieve a protocol that correctly computes  $\text{DISJ}$  with probability at least  $2/3$ . Note that we can get a gap by setting  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2n}$ . In other words, parties output 1 when disjoint with probability at least  $\frac{2}{5}$ . Parties output 1 when not disjoint with probability at most  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Since we have a constant gap between completeness and soundness, this can be amplified to  $2/3$  and  $1/3$  by running the protocol a constant number of times.

**Remarks.** We would like to characterize the sublinearity condition for product sampling protocols using the normalized input vectors. We can do this since without loss of generality we can assume that input vectors to the product sampling protocols are normalized; in particular, for any (non-normalized) vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ , we have

$$\Pr \left[ D_{\text{prod}} \left( \frac{\mathbf{w}_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}, \frac{\mathbf{w}_2}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \right) = i \right] = \frac{\frac{w_{1,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1} \cdot \frac{w_{2,i}}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1}}{\left\langle \frac{\mathbf{w}_1}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1}, \frac{\mathbf{w}_2}{\|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1} \right\rangle} = \Pr[D_{\text{prod}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = i].$$

Specifically, we show below that the impossibility theorem implies that in order to achieve sublinear communication complexity for product sampling, we would need, at the minimum, a promise on the inputs that guarantees that

$$\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \in \Omega(1/n^2),$$

when  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$  are normalized vectors.

To do this, first note that the theorem implies that sublinear communication product sampling needs to have  $\gamma \in \Omega(1/n)$ . Now, in the proof, any non-disjoint binary vectors  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  to the DISJ problem has  $\langle \tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \rangle \geq 1$ , and these vectors are transformed to  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})$  and  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})$ . Let  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  be the normalized vectors  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})$  and  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})$ ; that is,  $\mathbf{w}_1 := g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})/\|g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})\|_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2 = g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})/\|g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})\|_1$ . Since each entry of  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})$  and  $g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})$  is at most 1, we have  $\|g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}})\|_1 \leq n$  and  $\|g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}})\|_1 \leq n$ . Therefore, we have

$$\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle \geq \frac{\langle g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}), g_\gamma(\tilde{\mathbf{b}}) \rangle}{n \cdot n} \geq \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

*Proof (Proof of Lemma 7).* Assume that  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  are disjoint, and moreover, assume WLOG that  $\mathbf{A}$  is the designated party, and its input vector has Hamming weight  $w$ . Recall that  $a_i = g_\gamma(\tilde{a}_i)$  and  $b_i = g_\gamma(\tilde{b}_i)$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} W_{0,0} &:= \sum_{i:\tilde{a}_i=0, \tilde{b}_i=0} a_i \cdot b_i, & W_{1,0} &:= \sum_{i:\tilde{a}_i=1, \tilde{b}_i=0} a_i \cdot b_i \\ W_{0,1} &:= \sum_{i:\tilde{a}_i=0, \tilde{b}_i=1} a_i \cdot b_i, & W_{1,1} &:= \sum_{i:\tilde{a}_i=1, \tilde{b}_i=1} a_i \cdot b_i \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $W_{0,0} \leq n \cdot \gamma^2$ . Further,  $W_{1,1} = 0$ , since the vectors are disjoint, and  $W_{1,0} = w \cdot \gamma$  since the Hamming weight of  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}$  is exactly  $w$ . Additionally, note that  $W_{0,1} \geq W_{1,0}$ , since  $\mathbf{A}$  is the designated party, so the Hamming weight of  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}$  is less than or equal to the Hamming weight of  $\tilde{\mathbf{b}}$ .

Note that when the designated party is  $\mathbf{A}$ , then the output of the protocol is  $1 - a_{i^*}$ . Using the above facts, the probability of outputting 1 is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{W_{0,0} + W_{0,1}}{W_{1,1} + W_{0,0} + W_{0,1} + W_{1,0}} &\geq \frac{W_{0,1}}{W_{0,0} + W_{0,1} + W_{1,0}} \\ &\geq \frac{W_{0,1}}{n\gamma^2 + 2W_{0,1}} \\ &= \frac{w \cdot \gamma}{n\gamma^2 + 2w \cdot \gamma} \\ &= \frac{w}{n\gamma + 2w} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{n\gamma + 2}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows since  $w \geq 1$ , due to the Edge Case step of the protocol.  $\square$

*Proof (Proof of Lemma 8).* Assume that  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  are not disjoint. As before, consider  $W_{0,0}, W_{1,0}, W_{0,1}$ , and  $W_{1,1}$ . Note that  $W_{1,1} \geq 1$  since the inputs are not disjoint. We also have  $W_{0,0} + W_{0,1} + W_{1,0} \leq n \cdot \gamma$ , since  $a_i$  or  $b_i$  is  $\gamma$  in these cases.

Using the above facts, the probability of outputting 0 is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{W_{1,0} + W_{1,1}}{W_{1,1} + W_{0,0} + W_{0,1} + W_{1,0}} &\geq \frac{W_{1,1}}{W_{1,1} + n \cdot \gamma} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{1 + n \cdot \gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

## 4.2 Product sampling while leaking at most the inner product

**Assumptions.** As before, we assume that all weights in  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  are non-negative. As discussed in the previous subsection, we also assume, without loss of generality, that

$$\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_1 = \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_1 = 1.$$

**Overview.** We now show that the impossibility result of Section 4.1 can be bypassed if we make some assumptions on the inputs. Specifically, if we restrict ourselves to the case when  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = \omega\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)$ , then we can achieve a sublinear communication protocol for product sampling on inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ <sup>4</sup>. Of course, by observing that the protocol uses sub-linear communication, due to our lower-bound, both parties will learn that such a promise on the inputs is satisfied; the

<sup>4</sup> Regarding  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , there is a gap between the lowerbound result (i.e.,  $\Omega(\frac{1}{n^2})$ ) and our construction (i.e.,  $\omega(\frac{\log n}{n})$ ). Resolving the gap is left as an interesting open problem.

lower bound implies that some leakage about the inputs is necessary. In our protocol, we show that the information leaked is at most the inner product  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . (Formally, we set  $f_{\text{Leak}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .) Interestingly, we show that this is the case even though our protocol does not, and cannot,<sup>5</sup> actually compute  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

**Product sampling protocol.** Roughly, the protocol works as follows. The protocol proceeds in rounds where in each round  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  use the oblivious  $L_1$  sampling with a single input vector ( $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$ ) to produce two secret-shared sampled indices, one from  $P_1$ 's input vector, and one from  $P_2$ 's input vector. The parties then run a secure 2-PC protocol to securely compare these values, and if they are equal, output the sampled index. If the two sampled indices are not equal, the parties move to the next round.

We describe a private two-party protocol for product sampling leaking at most the inner product (see Protocol 6). This protocol is in the  $\{\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{2PC}\}$ -hybrid model.

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**Protocol 6** Product sampling ( $\Pi_{\text{prod}}^{IP}$ ) in the  $\{\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{2PC}\}$ -hybrid.

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**Inputs:** Party  $P_b$  has input  $\mathbf{w}_b$  of length  $n$ .

1. Invoke the  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  ideal functionality with  $P_1$  as the sender with input  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $P_2$  as the receiver. Let  $i_{1,1}$  and  $i_{1,2}$  be the output from the ideal functionality to  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively.
2. Invoke the  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  ideal functionality with  $P_2$  as the sender with input  $\mathbf{w}_2$  and  $P_1$  as the receiver. Let  $i_{2,1}$  and  $i_{2,2}$  be the output from the ideal functionality to  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  respectively.
3. Invoke the  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  ideal functionality with the following circuit:  
 Input:  $(i_{1,j}, i_{2,j})$  for  $j = 1, 2$ .  
 (a) Let  $i_1 = i_{1,1} \oplus i_{1,2}$ ,  $i_2 = i_{2,1} \oplus i_{2,2}$ .  
 (b) If  $i_1$  is equal to  $i_2$ , output  $i_1$  to both  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Otherwise, output  $\perp$ .
4. If the output from the ideal functionality is  $\perp$ , go back to Step 1. Otherwise, output whatever  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  outputs.

**Output:** Both parties output the sampled value  $i$ .

---

**Security.** We will prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.** *Protocol  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}^{IP}$  securely realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{prod}}$  with leakage  $f_{\text{Leak}}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  in the  $\{\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{2PC}\}$ -hybrid model with semi-honest security.*

*Proof.* We describe the simulator Sim in the  $\{\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}, \mathcal{F}_{2PC}\}$ -hybrid model for the case that Party 1 is corrupted. The simulator and proof of security are analogous in the case that Party 2 is corrupted.

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<sup>5</sup> This can be shown by a simple modification of the lower bound proof from Section 4.1.

Sim receives as input  $\mathbf{w}_1$ , the output  $i^*$ , and  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . Sim samples  $r^*$  from a geometric distribution with success probability  $p = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

Sim invokes Party 1 on input  $\mathbf{w}_1$ . For  $i \in [r^* - 1]$ , Party 1 sends its input to the first invocation of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  and Sim returns to it a random value in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Party 1 sends its input to the second invocation of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  and Sim returns to it a random value in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Party 1 sends its input to the  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  functionality and Sim returns to it  $\perp$ . For  $i = r^*$ , Party 1 sends its input to the first invocation of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  and Sim returns to it a random value in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Party 1 sends its input to the second invocation of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$  and Sim returns to it a random value in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Party 1 sends its input to the  $\mathcal{F}_{2PC}$  functionality and Sim returns to it  $i^*$ .

It is clear that the view of Party 1 is identical in the ideal and real world, assuming that Sim samples the first succeeding round,  $r^*$ , from the correct distribution. In the following, we argue that this is indeed the case.

First, note that on any given round, we have

$$p_c := \Pr[\text{collision}] = \sum_i \Pr[i_1 = i \wedge i_2 = i] = \sum_i w_{1,i} \cdot w_{2,i} = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle.$$

Let  $\text{FirstSuccess}(r)$  denote an event in which the protocol succeeds for the first time on the  $r$ -th round. Now, for  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[\text{FirstSuccess}(r) \text{ AND the output is } i^*] \\ &= \Pr[\text{no collision in first } r-1 \text{ rounds}] \cdot \Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^* \text{ on the } r\text{th round}] \\ &= (1 - p_c)^{r-1} \cdot \Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^*] \end{aligned}$$

Now, the probability that the protocol eventually outputs  $i^*$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[\text{protocol eventually outputs } i^* \text{ after some number of rounds}] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Pr[\text{FirstSuccess}(j) \text{ AND the output is } i^*] \\ &= \Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^*] \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - p_c)^{j-1} = \Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^*] \cdot \frac{1}{p_c}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the probability of  $\text{FirstSuccess}(r)$  conditioned on the output being  $i^*$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[\text{FirstSuccess}(r) | \text{the output is } i^*] \\ &= \frac{\Pr[\text{FirstSuccess}(r) \text{ AND the output is } i^*]}{\Pr[\text{protocol eventually outputs } i^* \text{ after some number of rounds}]} \\ &= \frac{(\Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^*]) \cdot (1 - p_c)^{r-1}}{\Pr[i_1 = i^* \wedge i_2 = i^*] \cdot \frac{1}{p_c}} \\ &= p_c \cdot (1 - p_c)^{r-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The above is exactly the probability of the number of Bernoulli trials (with probability  $p_c = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ ) needed to get one success. Sampling the number of



rounds is therefore equivalent to sampling the random variable corresponding to the number of rounds from a geometric distribution with success probability  $p_c = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , which is exactly what Sim does.  $\square$

**Performance.** As shown above, the number of rounds  $r$  needed by this protocol is distributed as the number of Bernoulli trials (with probability  $p = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ ) needed to get one success. Thus, the expected number of rounds is  $r = \frac{1}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}$ . In each round, the communication consists of a secure 2-PC of equality on  $O(\log n)$ -bit inputs, which can be done in  $O(\log n)$  communication and  $O(1)$  rounds. Thus, in total, this protocol has expected communication  $O(\frac{\log n}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle})$  and  $O(\frac{1}{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle})$  rounds. This communication is sublinear in  $n$  when  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = \omega\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)$ .

**Trading efficiency for privacy.** In the proof above, the simulator requires the value of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , which is not revealed by the output. However, a slight modification to the protocol allows us to remove this leakage at the cost of additional, though still sub-linear, communication. Instead of terminating the protocol the first time there is a collision in the  $L_1$  samples, we can pad the communication cost by making  $O(\frac{n}{\log n})$  calls to  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$ . Under the promise of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = \omega\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)$ , this ensures a collision in the outputs (with all but negligible probability). The parties can then use  $O(\frac{n}{\log n})$  communication to obviously find and output the collision, without revealing the index, and avoiding the leakage of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

Generalizing this idea, we arrive at a set of similar protocol modifications that support a continuous set of tradeoffs: instead of choosing between leaking  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  to the simulator, or padding to the maximum communication, we can choose to leak some lower bound on  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , and modify the protocol to make a proportionate number of calls to  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{osample}(L_1)}$ , search (obviously) for a collision, and repeat if necessary.

Without a full proof, we provide some intuition for the fact that this tradeoff between leakage and communication is inherent. We can do that by generalizing the statement of Theorem 5. We first modify the definition of  $\gamma$ -heavy defined previously: for any  $t(n) = O(n)$ , we say that a vector  $\mathbf{w}$  of length  $n$  is  $\gamma_{t,n}$ -heavy if each of the  $t := t(n)$  coordinates of  $\mathbf{w}$  is a number contained in  $[\gamma, 1]$ . In particular, we now allow  $t(n) = o(n)$ . Then, with a small modification to the reduction, we can prove that if  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  are  $\gamma_{t,n}$ -heavy, and if there exists a protocol  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}$  for product sampling with communication at most  $C := C(n, \gamma)$ , then there exists a protocol for computing  $\text{DISJ}^t$  with communication  $\log(n) + O(C)$ . In the modified reduction, the parties simply increase the weights of the  $t$  input slots (as before), and append  $n - t$  entries containing 0 at the end. Since we know that  $\text{DISJ}^t$  requires  $O(t)$  communication, the implication is that we have increasingly weaker communication bounds as we are provided increasingly strong promises on the inner product. Conversely, for a certain set of input vectors, observing the communication of the sampling protocol gives you a bound on the inner product of the inputs. The less communication observed, the tighter that bound, and the greater the leakage.

## 5 Product Sampling in Constant Rounds

**Achieving constant rounds through parallel repetition.** In Sections 4, we showed a sublinear communication protocol for product sampling when  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  is sufficiently large. Moreover, this protocol provably leaked no more information than the inner product. However, this protocol required  $O(1/\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle)$  rounds of communication. This raises the question of whether constant-round sublinear product sampling is possible under the same restrictions on the inputs.

Our protocol to achieve this takes a relatively standard approach. Suppose that we are given the value of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . Then, since the expected number of samples until a collision is a function of  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , we can just run the inner loop of protocol  $\Pi_{\text{prod}}$  in parallel sufficiently many times to guarantee that the protocol would terminate with all but negligible probability.

**How many times to repeat?** However, there is one catch. It is not actually possible to compute  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  in sublinear communication! One simple solution is to use our promise on the input: we could run the inner loop enough times to guarantee termination for any inputs satisfying the promise (e.g.  $\omega(\frac{n}{\log n})$  times). However, this forces us to adopt the worst-case communication cost, which might be undesirable. (Recall, it also offers the least leakage, which might be desirable.) Instead, we re-establish the trade-off between leakage and efficiency as follows. We begin by computing an approximation of the inner product in sublinear communication (see Section 5.1). Using this approximation, we can then realize our sublinear communication, constant round protocol for product sampling as follows in the next subsection.

### 5.1 Secure approximation of the inner product

We achieve a protocol that securely approximates the inner product with sub-linear communication. In particular, we take advantage of the well known Johnson–Lindenstrauss Transform (JLT) [20,18] sketch.

**Additional assumptions about  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ .** We assumed that  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  are normalized and correlated such that  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle = \omega(\log n/n)$ . In a similar vein, we assume that the cosine similarity of the two vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  is not small, e.g.,  $\omega(1/\log n)$ .

Recall the cosine similarity between the two vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  is defined as  $\cos(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|_2 \cdot \|\mathbf{w}_2\|_2}$ . Since the  $L_1$  norm of each vector is equal to 1, their  $L_2$  norms will typically much smaller than 1, which implies that the cosine similarity is usually much larger than  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

**Approximating the inner product using JLT sketches.** The JLT sketch of  $\mathbf{x}$  is equal to  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}$ , where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a random  $k \times n$  matrix with  $k \ll n$ . More specifically, the inner product of the two vectors is approximated as follows:

$\text{approxIP}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2): \quad \triangleright \mathbf{w}_1 \text{ and } \mathbf{w}_2 \text{ are } n \text{ dimensional vectors.}$

1. Choose  $k \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  such that each entry  $M_{i,j}$  is chosen from an independent Gaussian distribution of mean 0 and variance 1.
2. Output  $\frac{1}{k} \cdot \langle \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ . (Here, we slightly abuse the notation and treat the vectors  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  as column vectors.)

**Lemma 9.** (cf. [23, Corollary 3.1]) *For all  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$  such that  $\cos(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) \geq t$ , the procedure  $\text{approxIP}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  approximates  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$  up to a  $1 \pm \epsilon$  approximation factor with all but negligible probability (over the choice of the JLT matrix), using JLT dimension  $k = \omega\left(\frac{\log(n)}{t^2 \cdot \epsilon^2}\right)$ .*

**Privacy of the approximate output.** What is interesting is that the approximate inner product doesn't reveal anything more than the inner product itself. In this sense, it satisfies the notion of private approximation introduced in [15]. In particular, we prove the following:

**Lemma 10.** *The output of  $\text{approxIP}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$  can be simulated perfectly given only  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , and  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .*

The proof is found in Appendix C.6 in the full version.

**Private protocol via JLT.** Using the JLT sketch, we can design a private protocol approximating the inner product. See Protocol 7. The protocol uses threshold FHE (e.g., [28]).

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**Protocol 7** Private protocol for computing approximate inner product

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**Inputs:** Parties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  has inputs  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  respectively.

The protocol proceeds as follows:

1. Parties set up a threshold FHE scheme.
  2. They securely sample  $k \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  described in the above with in the threshold FHE. In particular, they jointly generate an encrypted random seed  $\llbracket s \rrbracket$ . Using this randomness, parties homomorphically evaluates  $\llbracket \text{PRG}(s) \rrbracket$ , where  $\text{PRG}$  is a pseudorandom generator, to obtain the JLT matrix  $\llbracket \mathbf{M} \rrbracket$ .
  3. Each party  $P_b$  homomorphically evaluates  $\llbracket \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_b \rrbracket = \llbracket \mathbf{M}\mathbf{w}_b \rrbracket$ .
  4. Party  $P_1$  sends  $\llbracket \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_1 \rrbracket$  to  $P_2$ .
  5. Party  $P_2$  homomorphically evaluates  $\llbracket \langle \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_2 \rangle \rrbracket$  and sends it to  $P_1$ .
  6. Parties execute threshold decryption to obtain and output  $\frac{1}{k} \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .
- 

**Security.** Since every protocol message is a ciphertext, based on semantic security of the threshold FHE, it is easy to see that the protocol securely realizes a functionality for computing  $\text{approxIP}$ . Based on Lemma 10, the leakage profile of the functionality is  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ , and  $\langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

## 5.2 Constant-round protocol for product sampling

Note that the Protocol 6 has the following structure. In particular:

- The probability that Protocol 6 samples a good index and halts in a given trial is  $p = \langle \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \rangle$ .

We need to repeat  $r$  trials in parallel so that the probability that all  $r$  trials fail is negligible. In other words, we should have

$$(1 - p)^r \leq e^{-p \cdot r} \leq e^{-\omega(\log \lambda)}.$$

This means that we should have  $r > \frac{\omega(\log \lambda)}{p}$ .

Moreover, in the previous subsection, we discussed how to obtain a good estimate  $\tilde{p} = (1 \pm \epsilon)p$ . Therefore, we should have

$$r > \frac{(1 + \epsilon) \cdot \omega(\log \lambda)}{\tilde{p}} > \frac{\omega(\log \lambda)}{p}.$$

In summary, by running  $\frac{(1+\epsilon) \cdot \omega(\log \lambda)}{\tilde{p}}$  instances in parallel, we achieve constant round protocols for product sampling with negligible failure probability. The final protocol should perform extra steps to hide from which trial the output comes from, and these changes can be made in a straightforward way.

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