Scalable Equi-Join Queries over Encrypted Database

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Abstract

Secure join queries over encrypted databases, the most expressive class of SQL queries, have attracted extensive attention recently. The state-of-the-art JXT (Jutla et al. ASIACRYPT 2022) enables join queries on encrypted relational databases without pre-computing all possible joins. However, JXT can merely support join queries over two tables (in encrypted databases) with some high-entropy join attributes.

In this paper, we propose an equi-join query protocol over two tables dubbed JXT+, that allows the join attributes with arbitrary names instead of JXT requiring the identical name for join attributes. JXT+ reduces the query complexity from $O(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)$ to $O(\ell_1)$ as compared to JXT, where ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 denote the numbers of matching records in two tables respectively. Furthermore, we present JXT++, the first equi-join queries across three or more tables over encrypted databases without pre-computation. Specifically, JXT++ supports joins of arbitrary attributes, i.e., all attributes (even low-entropy) can be candidates for join, while JXT requires high-entropy join attributes. In addition, JXT++ can alleviate sub-query leakage on three or more tables, which hides the leakage from the matching records of two-table join.

Finally, we implement and compare our proposed schemes with the state-of-the-art JXT. The experimental results demonstrate that both of our schemes are superior to JXT in search and storage costs. In particular, JXT+ ($resp.,$ JXT++) brings a saving of 49% ($resp.,$ 68%) in server storage cost and achieves a speedup of 51.7× (resp., 54.3×) in search latency.

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CCS Concepts

• Security and privacy \rightarrow Management and querying of encrypted data.

Keywords

Database Privacy; Encrypted Search; Structure Encryption; SQL **Query**

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1 Introduction

Encrypted search protocol enables the client to perform efficient search over encrypted databases. Symmetric searchable encryption (SSE), initiated by Song et al. [\[35\]](#page-13-0), is a promising primitive for realizing efficient encrypted search, which has been extensively studied in the past two decades [\[9–](#page-12-0)[13,](#page-12-1) [20,](#page-13-1) [21,](#page-13-2) [25,](#page-13-3) [32,](#page-13-4) [36,](#page-13-5) [37\]](#page-13-6). A long line of research has been conducted to achieve better tradeoffs between security, functionality, and performance by revealing well-defined leakage information.

We note that, however, almost all SSE constructions support only keyword-based search on encrypted documents. As claimed in [\[25\]](#page-13-3), most real-world data is usually stored and shared in relational databases. Roughly speaking, a relational database is a collection of tables with rows representing records and columns representing attributes, and most relational databases are equipped with the structured query language (SQL) for data querying and updating. A significant puzzle to be solved is how to perform expressive queries on encrypted relational database [\[25\]](#page-13-3).

Hacigümüş et al. [\[18\]](#page-13-7) first explicitly initiated the study of search on encrypted relational databases, where each attribute domain is split into a sequence of buckets and the associated bucket of the queried data will be returned. In 2011, Popa et al. [\[32\]](#page-13-4) developed a SQL-aware encrypted database system called CryptDB, that can support a large class of SQL queries by assembling propertypreserving encryption (PPE). Nevertheless, it has been witnessed in [\[29\]](#page-13-8) that the PPE-style approach is vulnerable to leakage-abuse attacks.

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Assume that the database consists of two tables, Tab₁ and Tab₂, and each has *m* rows, *n* columns, and *T* join attributes. We consider performing a query $q =$ (Select *inds* From Tab₁, Tab₂ Join On $attr_1^* = attr_2^*$ Where $w_1 \wedge w_2$). The symbols \bullet , \bullet , and \circ denote fully, partially, and without pre-computation of all possible joins, respectively. Let $\ell_i = |DB_{Tab_i}(w_i)|$ and l_{max} be the maximum occurrence number of the combinations of each join-attribute value of $attr_1^*$ and all attribute-value pairs in Tab₁. R is the search result of the query q, and R_J is the search result of the join query q', where $q' =$ (Select *inds* From Tab₁, Tab₂ Join On *attr*^{*}₁ = *attr*^{*}₂). Prf is the pseudorandom function operation, Dec is the decryption operation for symmetric encryption algorithm, H is the hash function, Xor is the exclusive-or operation. EMM_{qry} refers to the operation of retrieving an entry from the encrypted multi-map, and *Join* refers to the equality test over plaintext.

 \dagger : If $R_I = \emptyset$, the server computation can be reduced to constant (i.e., $O(1)$).

To mitigate the leakage of join queries, Kamara et al. [\[25\]](#page-13-3) introduced the first structured encryption scheme supporting join query named SPX, which relies crucially on pre-computing all possible joins and storing all the results in an encrypted version of the database. While it achieves optimal search complexity, SPX brings non-trivial storage overhead in some cases, especially when the database contains a large number of join attributes and the value distribution exhibits low entropy across all joinable attributes. That is, lower entropy across join attributes leads to a larger number of possible joins in pre-computation mode. Thus, SPX tends to configure high-entropy attributes as join attributes for storage efficiency. Subsequently, Cash et al. [\[11\]](#page-12-2) presented a variant of SPX by introducing the technique of partially pre-computed joins, which can achieve less leakage and communication size at the expense of moderate client-side computation.

Recently, Jutla et al. [\[22\]](#page-13-9) presented JXT, a novel join queries scheme without join pre-computation. Specifically, inspired by OXT [\[10\]](#page-12-3), this protocol generates two new table-wise data structures TSet and XSet for each table, where TSet refers to an inverted index for attribute/value pairs to perform single-keyword search within a single table, and XSet contains all combinations of record identifier/join-attribute value pair. The basic idea is to retrieve the corresponding record identifiers matching the queried keywords for two tables, respectively. Later, the server computes all the crosscombinations of the matching record identifiers and join-attribute value pairs between two tables and checks whether the above combinations belong to the XSet. Thus, the query complexity is $O(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)$, where ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 denote the numbers of matching records in two tables. Although JXT can achieve two-table join queries without pre-computation, it requires the joinable attributes across tables with the same attribute name (i.e., natural join). In addition, JXT cannot be trivially extended to three or more tables due to the complication of generating join tokens on three or more tables.

In this work, we further investigate equi-join queries over encrypted databases without join pre-computation that can support low-entropy join attributes, even handling three or more tables. More precisely, it performs SQL queries in the following form:

Select *inds* From *tables* Join On $(\textit{attr}_1^* = ... = \textit{attr}_k^*)$ Where $(w_1 \wedge ... \wedge w_k)$,

where *inds* denotes record identifiers, $attr^*_i$ and w_i refer to the join attribute and the attribute-value pair in table \textsf{Tab}_i , respectively.

1.1 Our Contributions

In this paper, we make affirmative progress to secure join queries over encrypted relational databases without pre-computation. Specifically, we propose an efficient equi-join query scheme over two tables and further extend to scalable equi-join queries across three or more tables. Both of the constructions outperform the state-ofthe-art JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9) in terms of query complexity and storage overhead. In addition, similar to JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9), our protocols can support flexible table addition by constructing index for newly added tables separately, while SPX [\[25\]](#page-13-3) requires performing the setup process across all tables. Table [1](#page-1-0) shows a brief comparison with prior works. More concretely, our main contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We propose JXT+, which supports equi-join queries over two tables without join pre-computation. Compared with the state-of-the-art JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9), JXT+ allows join attributes with arbitrary names, as opposed to the identical join attribute name in JXT. The query complexity of JXT+ is reduced from $O(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)$ to $O(\ell_1)$, where ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 are the numbers of matching records in the two queried tables. In addition, JXT+ can avoid the leakage information on join attributes by binding non-join-attribute value and join-attribute name in TSet.
- We present JXT++, to our best knowledge, the first equi-join queries over three or more tables without pre-computation. In particular, JXT++ can achieve joins of arbitrary attributes

even low-entropy attributes, eliminating the limitation of high-entropy join-attribute in JXT. Moreover, JXT++ can mitigate the sub-query leakage, stemming from multiple-table join, while surpassing JXT in query and storage efficiency.

• We implement our two protocols and perform a comprehensive comparison with the state-of-the-art JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9). The experiment results demonstrate that both of our schemes outperform JXT in terms of query time and storage cost. Particularly, JXT+ (resp., JXT++) brings a saving of 49% (resp., 68%) in server-side storage cost and achieves a speedup of $51.7\times$ (resp., $54.3\times$) in search latency.

1.2 Technical Overview

Equi-Join Queries over Two Tables. Inspired by OXT [\[10\]](#page-12-3), JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9) mainly construct two data structures, TSet and XSet, for each table in databases. Here, TSet serves as an inverted index for all attribute-value pairs, while XSet contains all combinations of record identifier and join-attribute value pair. The essential idea of JXT is to retrieve the records matching with specific attribute-value pairs from the TSet of table Tab₁ (resp. Tab₂), and then determine if the matching records from Tab_2 can be joined with those from Tab_1 . This is achieved by checking whether the combinations of identifiers of ℓ_2 matching records from Tab₂ and join-attribute value pairs of ℓ_1 matching records from Tab₁ appear in the XSet. In addition, we note that the queried join attributes in JXT must be sent to the server to locate the corresponding entry in TSet, which leads to some extra leakages, i.e., the queried join attributes. Overall, JXT suffers from heavy join query complexity $O(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)$ and cannot handle equi-join queries because the join-attribute name and value are jointly stored into XSet for each record.

To support equi-join queries, a trivial solution is to decouple the join-attribute name from its corresponding value in JXT. Specifically, all join-attribute value pairs, in TSet and XSet, can be split into two components: join-attribute name $attr^*$ and join-attribute value w^* . Informally speaking, the original combination (ind, $\langle \textit{attr}^*, w^* \rangle$) is replaced with a triple of (ind, $attr^*, w^*$), where the record identifier ind and join-attribute name $attr^*$ are from one table and joinattribute value w^* from another. Here, the only required change to achieve join with different join-attribute names is to include both queried join-attribute names in the search token. However, this approach still requires performing single-keyword search on both tables and then joining on their results, resulting in $O(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)$ query complexity. Meanwhile, the queried join attributes will be revealed.

We observe that equi-join can be achieved by checking the combination of join-attribute name and join-attribute value from different tables (e.g., $(\textit{attr}_1^*, w_2^*)$). To further reduce join cost, our initial idea is to build TSet to store all combinations of attribute-value pair and join-attribute value (e.g., (w_1, w_1^*)) in each table, which is indexed by the combination of attribute-value pair and any possible join-attribute name. Then, the join can be done by checking the combination of $(w_2, \text{attr}_2^*, w_1^*)$ in XSet. Note that only a single table is queried, the query complexity is reduced to $O(\ell_1)$. Further, we introduce an additional data structure CSet indexed by the combination (e.g., $(w_1, \text{attr}_1^*, w_1^*)$) for each table, which stores "together" all the corresponding encrypted record identifiers. Thus, all the matching identifiers can be retrieved at a constant cost. In addition,

our solution can hide the join-attribute information by binding it with non join-attribute value in TSet (i.e., $w||attr^*$).

Equi-Join Queries over Multiple Tables. An open question, "How to extend JXT to support join queries over three or more tables without join pre-computation?" is posed by Jutla et al. [\[22\]](#page-13-9). A straightforward answer is to divide the whole database into a collection of subsets including two designated tables and execute JXT protocol on them, then filter out the final result locally. Specifically, given a database with N tables (Tab₁, ..., Tab_N), to achieve join queries over k tables ($k \leq N$), the client performs JXT repeatedly on two-table pairs of $(Tab_{t_1}, Tab_{t_i})_{i \in [2,k]}$. After that, the client decrypts all the record identifiers matching each two-table join and determines the final result by obtaining the intersection. However, this naïve solution suffers from heavy query cost, i.e., $O(\sum_{i=2}^{k} \ell_1 \cdot \ell_i)$, where ℓ_i denotes the numbers of matching records in Tab_i.

To achieve efficient equi-join over multiple tables, our starting point is to extend our proposed JXT+ to support multiple-join queries. Specifically, the client first retrieves ℓ_1 entries matching w_1 from the TSet of Tab₁, and then checks whether the combinations $(w_2, \text{attr}_{t_2}^*, w_1^*), \ldots, (w_k, \text{attr}_{t_k}^*, w_1^*)$ include in XSet, where joinattribute value w_1^* is from Tab₁, attribute-value pairs (w_2, \ldots, w_k) and attribute names $(\textit{attr}_{t_2}^*, \ldots, \textit{attr}_{t_k}^*)$ are from the rest $k-1$ tables. When all checks are passed, the client obtains the final result by retrieving all the matching record identifiers from all the k tables. Obviously, the query cost is only dependent on the matching record identifiers in the first table, i.e., $O((k - 1) \cdot \ell_1)$. Nevertheless, this simple extension of JXT+ leaks non-trivial leakage. Par-ticularly, the server might learn sub-query leakages^{[1](#page-0-0)}, i.e., all the record identifiers matched with each two-table join. Additionally, it also leaks the frequency of join-attribute values associated with the queried attribute-value pairs, i.e., the number of occurrences of (w, w^*) , which is more harmful to low-entropy join attributes. To address this issue, an intuitive solution is to pad all the occurrences of each (w, w^*) with dummy strings to the maximum volume $L_{max}[i][attr^*]$, which is the biggest occurrence of w^* in a table for all w . Thus, this naïve strategy suffers from a large server storage $cost 2mnT + L_{max}mnT$.

To achieve better storage efficiency, our basic idea is to assign each pair $((w, attr^*, w^*), ct)$ in CSet to XOR filter [\[15,](#page-13-10) [37\]](#page-13-6) and then pad the remaining empty locations with dummies. Thus, the total storage overhead is $3.23mnT$ at the worst case (cf. Section [6.1\)](#page-9-0), where the storage of CSet is reduced from L_{max} mnT to 1.23mnT. Interestingly, sub-query results are obfuscated based on the padding strategy, preventing the server from accessing the exact records matching with any two-table join. Therefore, we can achieve equijoin queries over multiple tables without join pre-computation, while enjoying join over low-entropy attributes with $O(\ell_1)$ query complexity and 3.23 mnT storage overhead.

1.3 Related Work

In 2000, Song et al. introduced the notion of symmetric searchable encryption (SSE), which enables the server to perform keywordbased search on encrypted data, while maintaining data and query

¹When the query involves three or more tables, sub-query leakage (SRP) reveals whether some records are present in the join of two tables but not in the multi-table join. SRP is formalized as sub-query result pattern (SRP), as described in Section [5.](#page-8-0)

privacy. A variety of research progress has been done on enhanced security [\[5,](#page-12-4) [6,](#page-12-5) [8,](#page-12-6) [13,](#page-12-1) [26,](#page-13-11) [38\]](#page-13-12), expressive queries [\[10,](#page-12-3) [11,](#page-12-2) [22,](#page-13-9) [24,](#page-13-13) [25,](#page-13-3) [32\]](#page-13-4), and optimized performance [\[1,](#page-12-7) [9,](#page-12-0) [27,](#page-13-14) [36,](#page-13-5) [37\]](#page-13-6). Although SSE can achieve efficient search over encrypted documents, such as NoSQL databases and cloud storage, it is still challenging to design secure SQL queries over encrypted relational databases.

Hacigümüş et al. [\[18\]](#page-13-7) firstly explored the study of SQL queries on encrypted relational databases, where each attribute domain is mapped into a series of non-overlapping data buckets and all the items of the corresponding bucket will be returned. Thus, it leads to high communication overhead and leaks the exact range of queried data. Popa et al. [\[32\]](#page-13-4) presented a practical encrypted relational database system named CryptDB by integrating propertypreserving encryption (PPE), such as deterministic encryption [\[2\]](#page-12-8) and order-preserving encryption [\[4,](#page-12-9) [31\]](#page-13-15). That is, each column in the table will be encrypted with the composition of different types of PPE-encryption schemes (i.e., onion encryption). To perform certain SQL queries, the server decrypts the composition ciphertext by layer until the corresponding layer is reached. However, it has been reported in [\[16,](#page-13-16) [29\]](#page-13-8) that PPE-based constructions leak non-trivial information, e.g., data sorting and frequency. Although existing leakage-abuse attacks [\[3,](#page-12-10) [17,](#page-13-17) [23,](#page-13-18) [30,](#page-13-19) [33\]](#page-13-20) focus mainly on exact or range queries, Hoover et al. [\[20\]](#page-13-1) take the first step to explore the SQL-oriented leakage-abuse attacks relying on access pattern, e.g., volume leakage from selections or joins. We note that the above attacks are mitigated effortlessly using the volume-hiding technique. Interestingly, our final protocol (JXT++) conceals the volumes of selection and join operations, which is not susceptible to the mentioned attacks. Nevertheless, it is essential to develop SQL queries over encrypted relational databases that reveal as little information as possible.

To design SQL queries with reduced leakage, Kamara et al. [\[25\]](#page-13-3) presented a novel SQL queries scheme named SPX based on structure encryption, where all possible joins are pre-computed and stored in the encrypted database by heuristic normal form (HNF) representation. Although SPX reveals less leakage than PPE-style construction, it inevitably brings considerable storage blowup due to equi-join computation. Later, Cash et al. [\[11\]](#page-12-2) introduced the notion of partially pre-computed joins and transferred certain join operations to the client. In addition, Hahn et al. [\[19\]](#page-13-21) presented a fine-granularly secure join by adopting attribute-based encryption, that reveals only the equality pattern for records matching the selection criterion. Shafieinejad et al. [\[34\]](#page-13-22) further designed secure equi-join for multiple queries from function-hiding inner product encryption, which leaks only the sum of the leakage of each query. Nevertheless, it suffers from performance bottlenecks due to expensive public-key operations.

Recently, Jutla et al. [\[22\]](#page-13-9) extended the well-known OXT [\[10\]](#page-12-3) to join queries over two tables, and presented a new join queries scheme dubbed JXT without join pre-computation. More concretely, the server performs single-keyword search for two queried tables separately and checks the existence of all combinations of the matching record identifiers and join-attribute value pairs across tables. However, JXT only supports natural join (i.e., the same name for join attributes) over two tables. Thus, it is imperative to design secure equi-join queries over multiple tables.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we provide some required primitives throughout this paper, such as encrypted multi-map and join queries.

2.1 Symmetric Encryption

A symmetric encryption (SE) scheme is composed of three polynomialtime algorithms $SE = (Gen, Enc, Dec)$:

Gen(1^{λ}): On input of security parameter λ , it outputs a secret $key K$.

 $Enc(K, m)$: On inputs of a secret key K and a message m, it outputs a ciphertext ct.

 $Dec(K, ct)$: On inputs a secret key K and a ciphertext ct , it outputs the corresponding message m or an error symbol \bot .

Correctness. A symmetric encryption scheme is computationally correct if for any message m and secret key K , the probability of the corresponding ciphertext ct can be correctly recovered is overwhelming, i.e., $Pr[Dec(K, ct) = m] = 1$.

Security. Informally, a standard IND-CPA secure SE scheme ensures that an adversary, with access to encryption oracle, cannot distinguish ciphertexts from two messages with the same length.

Definition 2.1. A symmetric encryption scheme $SE = (Gen, Enc, Dec)$ is IND-CPA secure if for all PPT adversaries A , its advantage

$$
Adv_{\mathsf{SE}, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND-CPA}}(\lambda) = |\Pr[\text{Exp}_{\mathsf{SE}, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND-CPA}}(\lambda) = 1] - 1/2|
$$

is negligible in λ , where the experiment $\mathsf{Exp}_{\mathsf{SE},\mathcal{A}}^{\mathsf{IND}\text{-}\mathsf{CPA}}(\lambda)$ between a challenger and an adversary A is defined as follows.

Setup: The challenger generates a key $K \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda).$

Query 1: The adversary A adaptively accesses the encryption oracle, meaning that when A queries on $m \in \mathcal{M}$, the challenger returns $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K,m)$.

Challenge: The adversary A sends two messages m_0 and m_1 with the same length to the challenger. Then the challenger generates two ciphertexts $c_0 \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K, m_0)$ and $c_1 \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K, m_1)$. After that, the challenger chooses a bit $b \in \{0, 1\}$ randomly and gives c_b to A.

Query 2: The adversary A adaptively accesses the encryption oracle again, similar to Query 1, and subsequently it outputs a bit $b' \in \{0, 1\}.$

Guess: The adversary $\mathcal A$ outputs a bit $b' \in \{0, 1\}$. The experiment returns 1 if $b' = b$ and 0 otherwise.

2.2 XOR Filter

Graf and Lemire [\[15\]](#page-13-10) first introduced the notion of XOR filter, which can be used to achieve membership checking with nearoptimal storage overhead. Later, Wang et al. [\[37\]](#page-13-6) provided its formal $\frac{1}{4}$ description and applied it to encrypted data search^{[2](#page-0-0)}.

Let U be the universe of all possible inputs (i.e., strings) and B an array of λ -bit values. As shown in Algorithm [1,](#page-4-0) a (b, r) -XOR filter $XF = (XF.Setup, XF.Update, XF.Query)$ consists of the following algorithms:

XF. Setup(b, r): It takes as input $b, r \in \mathbb{N}$, and samples a collection of universal hash functions $\mathcal{H} = \{h_t : \mathcal{U} \to [\frac{t}{r}b, \frac{t+1}{r}b]\}$, where

²As stated in [\[37\]](#page-13-6), XOR filter can achieve data retrieving by replacing $H(x)$ with any data *y* at the corresponding positions $\{h_t(x)\}_{t\in[0,r-1]}$.

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 $XF.Setup(b, r)$ 1: $B \leftarrow \emptyset$, where $|B| = b$ 2: $H: \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 3: $\mathcal{H} = \{h_t : \mathcal{U} \to \left[\frac{t}{r}b, \frac{t+1}{r}b\right)\}\$, where $t \in [0, r-1]$ 4: return (H, B) $XF.Update(\mathcal{H}, B, S)$ 1: $Stack \leftarrow MappingStep(\mathcal{H}, S)$ 2: for $(x, i) \in Stack$ do 3: $B[i] \leftarrow H(x)$ 4: **for** $t = 0$ to $r - 1$ do 5: if $h_t(x) \neq i$ then 6: **if** $B[h_t(x)] = null$ then 7: $B[h_t(x)] \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 8: end if 9: $B[i] \leftarrow B[i] \oplus B[h_t(x)]$ 10: end if 11: end for 12: end for 13: for $j = 0$ to $b - 1$ do 14: if $B[j] = null$ then 15: $B[j] \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 16: end if 17: end for 18: $return B$ XF . Query (H, B, x) 1: $R \leftarrow 0^{\lambda}$ 2: for $t = 0$ to $r - 1$ do 3: $R \leftarrow R \oplus B[h_t(x)]$

 $t \in [0, r - 1]$. Finally, it outputs H and an initial empty array B of size *b*.

 $XF.Update(\mathcal{H}, B, S)$: It takes as input a family of hash functions *H*, an empty array *B*, and a data set $S \subseteq U$, then determines the order of inserting all elements by running Mapping Step, and pushes the elements to *Stack* following the order. For each $(x, i) \in Stack$, it sets $B[i] \leftarrow x$ \oplus $t \in [0,r-1] \setminus \{t'\}$ $B[h_t(x)]$, where $h_{t'}(x) = i$, and finally

outputs array B .

XF.Query(H, B, x): It takes as input H, B as well as an element x, and returns $R = \bigoplus_{t=0}^{r-1} B[h_t(x)].$

Perfect Completeness. An XOR filter is perfectly complete if for all integers $b, r \in \mathbb{N}$, all element set $S \subseteq \mathcal{U}$, $x \in S$ and $B_S \leftarrow$ $XF.Update(\mathcal{H}, B, S)$, it holds that $Pr[XF.Query(\mathcal{H}, B_S, x) = x] = 1$. This means that any inserted element can always be retrieved.

Parameter Choices. The storage cost of XOR filter is very close to the lower bound $O(n)$ while supporting efficient data query, where n denotes the size of set *S*. As indicated in [\[7,](#page-12-11) [28\]](#page-13-23), the Mapping Step of XOR filter can assign all elements in set *S* to a set of $n = |S|$ edges generating an acyclic r-partite hypergraph, where the storage overhead is $C_r n + \beta$. The minimal value C_r is about 1.23 when $r = 3$. Thus, the size of *B* is $\lfloor 1.23n \rfloor + \beta$.

2.3 Encrypted Multi-Map

4: end for 5: $return R$ Mapping Step $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{S})$ 1: $Stack, Queue \leftarrow \emptyset$ 2: $T \leftarrow \emptyset$, where $|T| = b$

3: for $x \in S$ do

6: end for 7: end for

4: **for** $t = 0$ to $r - 1$ do

8: for $i = 0$ to $b - 1$ do 9: **if** $|T[i]| = 1$ then 10: $Queue \leftarrow i$ 11: end if 12: end for

13: while (*Queue* \neq *null*) do

18: $T[h_t(x)] \leftarrow T[h_t(x)] \setminus \{x\}$ 19: **if** $|T[h_t(x)]| = 1$ then 20: $Queue \leftarrow h_t(x)$

14: $i \leftarrow Queue$ 15: $x \leftarrow T[i]$ 16: $Stack \leftarrow (x, i)$ 17: **for** $t = 0$ to $r - 1$ do

21: end if 22: end for 23: end while

26: end if

24: if $|Stack| \neq |S|$ then 25: return False

27: return True and Stack

5: $T[h_t(x)] \leftarrow T[h_t(x)] \cup \{x\}$

We recall multi-map, an abstract data structure for data retrieving is formalized in [\[14,](#page-12-12) [26\]](#page-13-11). Specifically, multi-map enables to store key/value pairs $MM = \{(\vec{k}, \vec{v}_k)\}\)$. Here, we denote by $MM[k]$ all values associated with key k . A multi-map supports the following operations:

 $Get(k)$: On input of a key k, it outputs the associated tuple $\vec{v}_k = MM[k].$

Put((k, \vec{v}_k) : On input of a key/value pair (k, \vec{v}_k) and inserts it into multi-map, i.e., $MM[k] = \vec{v}_k$.

To design encrypted search protocol, we further recall the notion of encrypted multi-map (EMM). Specifically, the syntax of response-hiding EMM [\[24\]](#page-13-13) EMM = (Setup, Search) is presented as follows:

Setup $(1^{\lambda},$ MM): The client takes a security parameter λ and a multi-map MM as input, and outputs a secret key K and an encrypted multi-map EMM.

Search(K, q ; EMM): The client takes the secret key K as well as a query q as input and sends the corresponding search token tk_q to the server. Then the server performs search on EMM with tk_q and sends the encrypted search result $EMM[q]$ to the client. Finally, the client recovers $MM[q]$ from EMM[q] using the secret key K.

Generally, EMM can be classified into response-revealing and response-hiding. The former reveals the response in plaintext to the server, whereas the latter requires the client to decrypt the retrieved results locally. A response-revealing EMM scheme can be achieved by having the server retrieve the response in plaintext directly in Search algorithm.

Correctness. An encrypted multi-map scheme Σ is computationally correct if any adversary A has a negligible probability of winning the following game $\text{Cor}^{\Sigma}_{\mathcal{A}}$. The adversary selects a multi-map MM and obtains EMM via Setup(1^{λ} , MM). The adversary then (non)-adaptively chooses a list of queries q, and the game runs Search(K, q[i]; EMM) for all $i \in [q]$ with client input (K, q[i]) and server input EMM. If any output from the client is not equal to the corresponding $MM[q[i]]$ ($i \in [|q|]$), the game outputs 1; otherwise, it outputs 0. Σ is computationally correct if $Pr[Cor_{\mathcal{A}}^{\Sigma}(\lambda) = 1] \le$ negl(λ) for all \mathcal{A} .

Security. We define the non-adaptive security of an encrypted multi-map scheme using a leakage function \mathcal{L} , which represents the information revealed to an adversary during real-world scheme. Essentially, the scheme ensures that the adversary A cannot gain more information beyond what $\mathcal L$ reveals.

Definition 2.2 (Non-adaptive Security of Encrypted Multi-map). Let Σ = (Setup, Search) be an encrypted MM and $\mathcal L$ be its leakage function. We say Σ is \mathcal{L} -semantically secure against non-adaptive attacks if for all PPT adversaries A , there exists an efficient simulator S such that

$$
\big|\Pr[\text{Real}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\Sigma}(\lambda) = 1] - \Pr[\text{Ideal}_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{S}}^{\Sigma}(\lambda) = 1]\big| \le \text{negl}(\lambda),
$$

where $\text{Real}^{\Sigma}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda)$ and $\text{Ideal}^{\Sigma}_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{S}}(\lambda)$ are defined as follows:

 $\text{Real}^{\Sigma}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda)$: \mathcal{A} chooses a multi-map MM and a list of queries \bm{q} . The experiment runs Setup(1^{λ} , MM) and returns EMM to A. For each $i \in [q]$, the experiment runs Search(K, q[i]; EMM), and returns the transcript and client's output to A . Finally, A outputs a bit b as the output of this experiment.

 $\text{Ideal}^{\Sigma}_{\mathcal{A},\mathcal{S}}(\lambda)$: \mathcal{A} chooses a multi-map MM and a list of queries q. The experiment runs $\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{L}(\mathsf{MM}, \mathsf{q}))$ and returns its outputs to \mathcal{A} . Finally, A outputs a bit b as the output of this experiment.

To facilitate the description of our protocols, we further introduce TSet [\[10,](#page-12-3) [22\]](#page-13-9), which essentially serves as a response-revealing EMM. It maintains a collection of fixed-size values indexed by keys, which can be accessed through tokens. Formally, a TSet instantiation is defined by three polynomial-time algorithms, described as follows:

TSetSetup $(1^{\lambda},$ T): It takes as input a security parameter λ and a multi-map $\mathsf{T} = \big\{ \big(k, (v_k[1], \ldots, v_k[|\mathsf{T}[k]||)) \big) \big\}_{k \in \mathbb{K}}$, where $\mathbb K$ is the set of keys in T, with each key $k \in \mathbb{K}$ having a corresponding list of values of equal bit length, i.e., $v_k[1], \ldots, v_k[|\mathsf{T}[k]|]$. It then outputs a secret key K_T and an EMM TSet.

TSetGetTag(K_T , k): It takes as input the secret key K_T and a queried key k , then outputs a search token stag.

TSetRetrieve(TSet, stag): It takes as input TSet and stag associated to k , and finally outputs $\mathsf{T}[k]$.

Note that TSet is a specialized type of EMM, and its correctness and security definitions are closely similar to those of EMM. Thus, we omit the details.

2.4 Join Queries over Encrypted Database

We recall the syntax of join queries over encrypted relational data-base presented in [\[22\]](#page-13-9). A relational database DB = {Tab_i, W_i }_{i∈[N]} consists of a set of tables Tab_i, where W_i denotes all attributevalue pairs in Tab_i. For simplicity, assume that Tab_i has m_i rows (i.e., records) and n_i columns (i.e., attributes), Tab $_i$ can be depicted as $\{(\text{ind}_r, \{w_c\}_{c \in [n]})\}_{r \in [m]}$, where $\text{ind}_r \in \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ serves as the record identifier, and $w_c \in \{0,1\}^*$ denotes the attribute-value pair. Note that ind r is used to retrieve the corresponding record in the outsourced encrypted database. We present some critical notations for join queries across tables as follows:

Record Identifiers: A record identifier, denoted as ind, is a unique value assigned to each record within a table Tab $_i$ in a relational database. The identifier can be disclosed to the server that stores the relational database, enabling it to swiftly retrieve the corresponding encrypted record and send it to the client. We suppose that each record identifier in a table Tab_i is attached to the table number *i* throughout the paper. That is, there is no identical record identifier in two distinct tables.

Join Attributes: Consider a table \textsf{Tab}_i with a total of n attributes, among which T special attribute are designated as "join attributes" denoted by $\{attr_{i,t}^*\}_{t\in[T]}$. These join attributes with the size upperbounded are chosen at setup and are used for join queries across tables.

Inverted Index: For each attribute-value pair $w \in W_i$, $DB_{Tab_i}(w)$ refers to the set of identifiers of records matching w , specifically:

$$
DB_{Tab_i}(w) = \{ \text{ind} \mid (\text{ind}, w) \in Tab_i \}.
$$

The collection $\{DB_{Tab_i}(w)\}_{w \in W_i}$ is named "inverted index" of the table Tab .

Inverted Join Index: For each attribute-value pair $w \in W_i$, we denote $\text{DB}^{\text{Join}}_{\text{Tab}_i}(\omega)$ as the set of identifiers of records satisfying ω , along with all the pairs of join-attribute/value in the same record. The formal description is as follows:

$$
DB_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w) = \left\{ (\text{ind}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^* \}_{t \in [T]}) \mid
$$

$$
(\text{ind}, w) \in \text{Tab}_i \land \forall t \in [T], (\text{ind}, attr_t^*, w_t^*) \in \text{Tab}_i \right\}.
$$

All the ${ { \|\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{b}^{Join}_{\text{Tab}_i}(w)\} }_{w \in W_i}$ is called as "inverted join index" of table Tab .

Join Query: A join query over k tables $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1}, \ldots, \textsf{Tab}_{t_k}$ with corresponding attribute-value pair sets $W_{t_1}, ..., W_{t_k}$, respectively, is specified by a tuple

$$
q = (\{t_1, ..., t_k\}, \{w_1, ..., w_k\}, \{attr_{t_1}^*, ..., attr_{t_k}^*\})
$$

where $w_i \in W_{t_i}$, and $attr_{t_i}^*$ is a join attribute of table Tab $_{t_i}$ which defines the join relation across the tables for the query q .

We write $DB(q)$ to be the collection of tuples of the form $(\textbf{ind}_{t_1}, \ldots,$ ind_{t_k}) that satisfy the query q. Each tuple consists of k record identifier sets, each originating from $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1}, \ldots, \textsf{Tab}_{t_k}$, respectively. Formally, for each $(\text{ind}_{t_1},...,\text{ind}_{t_k}) \in \text{DB}(q)$, this means that the following conditions hold simultaneously:

$$
\bigwedge_{\substack{i \in [k] \\ j \in [\lfloor \mathbf{ind}_{t_i} \rfloor]}} (\mathbf{ind}_{t_i}[j], w_i) \in \mathsf{Tab}_{t_i} \text{ and } \exists \text{ } \gamma \text{s.t.} \bigwedge_{i \in [k]} (\mathbf{ind}_{t_i}[j], \langle \mathbf{attr}^*_{t_i}, \gamma \rangle) \in \mathsf{Tab}_{t_i}
$$

Algorithm 2 Equi-join Queries over Two Tables (JXT+)

EDBSetup $(1^{\lambda},DB)$ 1: $K_z, K_w, K_r, K_{\text{enc}} \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}, \text{DB} = \{\text{Tab}_i, \text{W}_i\}_{i \in [N]}$ 2: for $i = 1$ to N do 3: T_{*i*} ← empty array, XSet[*i*] ← Ø 4: $CSet[i] \leftarrow \text{empty multi-map}$ 5: for $w \in W_i$ do 6: cnt ← 1 7: $Z_0 \leftarrow F(K_z, w||0)$ 8: $K_{\text{enc}, w} \leftarrow F(K_{\text{enc}}, w)$ 9: **for** (ind, $\{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]}$) $\in DB_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w)$ do 10: $Z_{\text{cnt}} \leftarrow F(K_z, w || \text{cnt})$ 11: $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, \text{ind})$ 12: for $t \in [T]$ do 13: $y \leftarrow F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z_{\text{cnt}}$ 14: Append *y* to $\overline{T}_i[w|| \overline{attr}_t^*]$ 15: $\operatorname{xtag} \leftarrow F(K_r, \operatorname{attr}_t^*) \oplus F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z_0$ 16: $XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{xtag\}$ 17: $CSet[i] \leftarrow CSet[i].Put(xtag, ct)$ 18: end for 19: $cnt ← cnt + 1$ 20: end for 21: end for 22: end for 23: (TSet, K_T) ← TSetSetup(T₁||...||T_N) 24: K \leftarrow $(K_z, K_w, K_r, K_T, K_{\text{enc}})$, EDB \leftarrow (TSet, XSet, CSet) 25: return (K; EDB) Search(K, q ; EDB) Client: 1: $(K_z, K_r, K_T, K_{\text{enc}}) \leftarrow K$, $({t_1, t_2}, {w_1, w_2}, {attr_{t_1}^*, attr_{t_2}^*}) \leftarrow q$ 2: stag ← TSetGetTag $(K_T, (t_1, w_1 || \text{attr}^*_{t_1}))$

3: Send $({t_1, t_2},$ stag) to the server 4: for cnt = $1, 2...$ until server sends stop do

3 Equi-Join Queries over Two Tables

In this section, we present JXT+, a new equi-join query scheme over two tables without join pre-computation, which enjoys better query and storage efficiency than the state-of-the-art JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9).

Assume that $F: \{0,1\}^{\lambda} \times \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ is pseudorandom function, SE = (Gen, Enc, Dec) is IND-CPA secure symmetric encryption scheme, TSet = (TSetSetup, TSetGetTag, TSetRetrieve) is a non-interactive response-revealing EMM, and CSet is a multimap. Our construction is comprised of one algorithm EDBSetup and one protocol Search in Algorithm [8](#page-18-1) and the details of JXT+ are shown as follows:

EDBSetup $(1^{\lambda},\text{DB})$: The client first randomly picks secret keys K_z , K_w , K_r , $K_{\text{enc}} \in \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ for PRF *F*, and parses the database DB as {Tab_i, W_i}_{i∈[N]}, where W_i denotes the set of all attribute-value pairs in table Tab_i . Then the client initializes an empty array T_i , an empty set $XSet[i]$ and an empty multi-map $CSet[i]$ for each table Tab_i. After that, the client inserts each pair $(w, \text{DB}^{\text{Join}}_{\text{Tab}_i}(w))$

5: xjointoken₁ [cnt] \leftarrow $F(K_z, w_1 || 0) \oplus F(K_r, attr^*_{t_1})$ $\oplus F(K_z, w_1 || \text{cnt})$ 6: xjointoken₂[cnt] \leftarrow $F(K_z, w_2 || 0) \oplus F(K_r, attr_{t_2}^*)$ $\oplus F(K_z, w_1 || \text{cnt})$ 7: Send xjointoken $_1$ [cnt] and xjointoken $_2$ [cnt] to the server 8: end for Server: 9: (TSet, XSet, CSet) ← EDB 10: $T_{t_1}[w_1||attr^*_{t_1}]$ ← TSetRetrieve(TSet, stag) 11: Parse $T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*] = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{|T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*]})$ 12: **for** cnt = 1 to $|T_{t_1}[w_1|| \text{attr}_{t_1}^*]|$ **do** 13: **if** cnt = $|T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*]$ then 14: Send stop to the client $15:$ end if 16: xtoken₂ ← xjointoken₂[cnt] ⊕ y_{cnt} 17: **if** xtoken₂ ∉ XSet[t_2] **then** 18: break 19: end if 20: xtoken₁ ← xjointoken₁ [cnt] ⊕ y_{cnt} 21: $ct_1 \leftarrow CSet[t_1].Get(xtoken_1)$ 22: $ct_2 \leftarrow CSet[t_2].Get(xtoken_2)$ 23: $CT \leftarrow CT \cup \{(ct_1, ct_2)\}$ 24 : end for 25: Send CT to the client Client: 26: $K_{\text{enc},w_1} \leftarrow F(K_{\text{enc}},w_1), K_{\text{enc},w_2} \leftarrow F(K_{\text{enc}},w_2), \text{Res} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 27: for $(ct_1, ct_2) \in \mathbb{C}$ T do 28: for $i = 1$ to 2 do 29: **for** $j = 1$ to $|ct_i|$ do 30: Res[i][j] \leftarrow Dec($K_{\text{enc}, w_i}, \text{ct}_i[j]$) 31: end for 32: end for 33: end for 34: return Res

of Tab_i into encrypted database EDB (cf. line 5-21). More concretely, for each pair of $(w, attr_t^*)$, the client first computes all the values $\{F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus F(K_z, w \mid \text{cnt})\}$ and stores them at location $T_i[w||attr_t^*]$, which can be used to determine the number of record matching with w. Then, all {xtag} for each tuple $(w, attr_t^*, w_t^*)$ are inserted into $XSet[i]$, which is the key component to achieve efficient euqi-join across two tables. Moreover, an additional data structure $CSet[i]$ is used to store all pairs (xtag, ct). Finally, it outputs the secret key $K = (K_z, K_w, K_r, K_T, K_{\text{enc}})$ and encrypted database $EDB = (TSet, XSet, CSet).$

Search(K, q; EDB): To perform equi-join query q over \textsf{Tab}_{t_1} and Tab_{t2}, the client sends stag for pair $(w_1, \frac{atr_{t_1}^*}{t_1})^3$ $(w_1, \frac{atr_{t_1}^*}{t_1})^3$ and table indices $\{t_1, t_2\}$, along with xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂ arrays until instructed by the server to stop $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$. Next, the server retrieves the corresponding values $T_{t_1}[w_1 || \hat{a} t t r_{t_1}^*]$ by calling TSetRetrieve

 3 It is unnecessary to reveal the ioin-attribute to the server in our protocol, while it will leak to the server for determining the desirable entry in JXT.

⁴ JXT+ has only a single round of interaction similar as OXT and JXT, and its communication cost is composed of $({t_1, t_2})$, stag, ${({x_j})}$ (xjointoken₁[1], xjointoken₂[1]), . . . , (xjointoken₁[cnt], xjointoken₂[cnt])}).

EDBSetup $(1^{\lambda},DB)$ 1: $K_z, K_{z'}, K_r, K_w, K_c, K_{\text{enc}} \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}, \text{DB} = \{\text{Tab}_i, W_i\}_{i \in [N]}$ 2: for $i = 1$ to N do 3: T_i ← empty array, XSet[i] ← Ø, M ← empty map 4: for $w \in W_i$ do 5: $C \leftarrow \text{empty map}$ 6: $Z \leftarrow F(K_z, w), Z' \leftarrow F(K_{z'}, w)$ 7: $K_{\text{enc}, w} \leftarrow F(K_{\text{enc}}, w)$ 8: **for** (ind, $\{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]}$) $\in DB_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w)$ do 9: $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, \text{ind})$ 10: for $t \in [T]$ do 11: **if** $C[attr_t^*||w_t^*] = null$ then 12: $\mathbf{C}[attr_t^*||w_t^*] \leftarrow [L_{max}[i][attr_t^*]]$ 13: $y \leftarrow F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z$ 14: Append *y* to $\overline{T}_i[w|| \overline{attr}_t^*]$ 15: $\operatorname{xtag}\leftarrow F(K_r, \operatorname{attr}_t^*)\oplus F(K_w, w_t^*)\oplus Z'\oplus F(K_c, 1)$ 16: $XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{xtag\}$ 17: end if 18: Randomly choose cnt $\in \mathbb{C}[attr_t^*||w_t^*]$ 19: $\mathbb{C}[attr_t^* || w_t^*] \leftarrow \mathbb{C}[attr_t^* || w_t^*] \setminus \{ \text{cnt} \}$ 20: $\operatorname{xtag} \leftarrow F(K_r, \operatorname{attr}_t^*) \oplus F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z' \oplus F(K_c, \text{cnt})$ 21: $\mathbf{M}[\text{xtag}] \leftarrow ct$ 22: end for 23: end for 24: end for 25: $(\mathcal{H}, \text{CSet}[i]) \leftarrow \text{XF}.\text{Setup}(1.23|\mathbf{M}| + \beta, r)$ 26: $CSet[i] \leftarrow \mathsf{XF}.Update(\mathcal{H}, \mathbf{M}, CSet[i])$ 27: end for 28: $(TSet, K_T) \leftarrow TSetSetup(1^{\lambda}, T_1||...||T_N)$ 29: K← $(K_z, K_{z'}, K_r, K_w, K_c, K_{enc}, K_T)$, EDB← (TSet, XSet, CSet) 30: return (K; EDB) Search $(K, q; EDB)$ Client: 1: $(K_z, K_{z'}, K_r, K_c, K_{\text{enc}}, K_T) \leftarrow K$ 2: $({t_1, ..., t_k}, {w_1, ..., w_k}, {attr_{t_1}^*, ..., attr_{t_k}^*}) \leftarrow q$ 3: stag ← TSetGetTag $(K_T, (t_1, w_1 || \text{attr}_{t_1}^*))$ 4: Send $({t_1, \ldots, t_k})$, stag) to the server 5: for $i = 1$ to k do

6: **for** cnt = 1 to $L_{max}[i][attr_{t_i}^*]$ do

and filters out the final result by checking whether the combination of $(w_2, \textit{attr}_2^*, w_1^*)$ is in XSet. Specifically, the server computes xtoken₂ = xjointoken₂ [*i*] \oplus y_i for each value in T_{t₁} [w₁] ||attr_{t₁}] and tests whether xtoken₂ \in XSet. If hold, the server returns the matching encrypted identifiers CT associated with xtoken₁ and xtoken₂, where xtoken₁ = xjointoken₁ [i] \oplus y_i. For each (ct₁, ct₂) \in CT, the client recovers the matching record identifiers Res = $\{(\text{ind}_1, \text{ind}_2) :$ $\text{ind}_1 = \text{Dec}(K_{\text{enc},w_1}, \text{ct}_1), \text{ind}_2 = \text{Dec}(K_{\text{enc},w_2}, \text{ct}_2)\}.$

REMARK 1. Here, we briefly present a variant of JXT+, named FJXT+, which enables to retrieve all rows matching $attr_{t_1}^* = attr_{t_2}^*$ without giving specific attribute-value pairs w_1 and w_2 . Specifically, to achieve full equi-join without a filter, the only required change for FJXT+ is to insert an extra attribute column attr $_{0}^{i}$ for each table

7: $\text{xjointoken}[i][\text{cnt}] \leftarrow F(K_{z'}, w_i) \oplus F(K_r, \text{attr}_{t_i}^*)$ \oplus $F(K_z, w_1) \oplus F(K_c, \text{cnt})$ 8: end for 9: end for 10: Send xjointoken to the server Server: 11: (TSet, XSet, CSet) ← EDB 12: $T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*]$ ← TSetRetrieve(TSet, stag) 13: Parse $T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*] = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{|T_{t_1}[w_1||attr_{t_1}^*]})$ 14: **for** cnt = 1 to $|T_{t_1}[w_1|| \text{attr}_{t_1}^*]|$ **do** 15: **for** $i = 2$ to k **do** 16: $xtoken[i][1] \leftarrow xjointoken[i][1] \oplus y_{cnt}$ 17: **if** xtoken[i][1] \notin XSet[t_i] **then** 18: break 19: end if 20: if $i = k$ then 21: **for** $j = 1$ to k **do** 22: **for** $c = 1$ to |xjointoken[j]| **do** 23: $\mathsf{x} \mathsf{token}[j][c] \leftarrow \mathsf{x} \mathsf{jointoken}[j][c] \oplus y_{\mathsf{cnt}}$ 24: ct $_i[c] \leftarrow$ XF. Search $(\mathcal{H}, \text{CSet}[t_i], \text{xtoken}[j][c])$ 25: end for 26: end for 27: $CT \leftarrow CT \cup \{(ct_1, ..., ct_k)\}$ 28: end if 29: end for 30: end for 31: Send CT to the client Client: 32: $Res \leftarrow \emptyset$ 33: for $i = 1$ to k do 34: $K_{\text{enc}, w_i} \leftarrow F(K_{\text{enc}}, w_i)$ 35: end for 36: for $(ct_1, ..., ct_k) \in \mathbb{CT}$ do 37: **for** $i = 1$ to k **do** 38: **for** $j = 1$ to $|ct_i|$ **do** 39: Res[i][j] \leftarrow Dec($K_{\text{enc}, w_i}, \text{ct}_i[j]$) 40: end for 41: end for 42: end for 43: Return Res

Tab_i filled with merely "#" at setup phase. When performing query $q = (\{t_1, t_2\}, \{w_1 = \frac{attr_0^1}{+}, w_2 = \frac{attr_0^2}{+}, \{attr_{t_1}^*, attr_{t_2}^*\}, \}$, the client generates stag for pair $(w_1, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*)$, and the server can retrieve all rows (i.e., records) matching $attr_{t_1}^*$ from TSet, then the server can check if the retrieved TSet entries satisfy the join query (cf. line 12-24).

To reflect the influence of change, we give a theoretical analysis of FJXT+ in terms of storage and query efficiency. For simplicity, assume that each table has m records and n attributes, with T joinattribute. Similar to $\frac{1}{1}X T^+$, the total storage size of $\frac{1}{1}X T^+$ is $\frac{3}{n}$ (n + 1) T in the worst case due to the insertion of an additional attribute column. For query overhead, the client generates a token for the pair of $(w_1 = attr_0^1||\text{#}, attr_{t_1}^*)$ and retrieves all the m rows (i.e., no filtering), then generates 2m cross-tokens xjointoken. Thus, the computation

complexity for token generation is $O(m)Prf$. In addition, to retrieve all rows (m) in Tab $_{t_1}$, the server needs to perform $O(m)$ Prf and $O(m)$ XOR operations for join with $\mathit{attr}^*_{t_2}$. Then the server and the client are required to compute $O(|R|)$ hash and $O(|R|)$ decryption operations, respectively. Overall, the query overhead is $O(m)Pr f + O(|R|)Dec$ for the client and $O(m)(Pr f + X or) + O(|R|)H$ for the server.

4 Equi-Join Queries over Multiple Tables

In this section, we propose JXT++, the first equi-join query scheme over multiple tables without join pre-computation, by extending our basic scheme JXT+, which can support join of arbitrary low-entropy attributes and mitigate the sub-query leakage.

Let $F: \{0,1\}^{\lambda} \times \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ be a PRF, SE = (Gen, Enc, Dec) an IND-CPA secure SE scheme, and $\Sigma =$ (TSetSetup, TSetGetTag, TSetRetrieve) a non-interactive response-revealing EMM. Given any database DB = {Tab_i, W_i}_{i∈[N]}, the client initializes a twodimensional array L_{max} with size $N \times T$ to store the maximum occurrence number of each pair $(w, w_t^*)_{w \in W_i, t \in [T]}$, where w_t^* is the corresponding value of join attribute $attr_t^*$ in table Tab_i. JXT++ consists of one algorithm EDBSetup and one protocol Search in Algorithm [3](#page-7-0) and the details are described as follows:

EDBSetup(1^{λ} , DB): The client first parses the database DB as $\{\textsf{Tab}_i, \textsf{W}_i\}_{i \in [N]}$, and randomly picks keys $K_z, K_{z'}, K_r, K_w, K_c, K_{\text{enc}} \in$ $\{0,1\}$ ^{λ} for PRF *F*. Then it initializes T_i as an empty array, XSet[i] as an empty set, and M as an empty map for each table \textsf{Tab}_i . Later, the client inserts all the pairs $(w, \text{DB}_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w))$ of Tab_i into EDB (cf. line 4-26). Specifically, the client computes all values $\{F(K_z, w_t^*) \oplus F(K_z, w)\}\$ and appends into $T_i[w][attr_t^*]$ for each pair of $(w, attr_t^*)$. The client further computes $xtag = F(K_r, attr_t^*) \oplus$ $F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z' \oplus F(K_c, 1)$ for $(w, w_t^*, attr_t^*)$ and stores all {xtag} into $XSet[i]$. In addition, each encrypted identifier ct is stored into map **M** indexing by a unique token (i.e., xtag = $F(K_r, attr_t^*) \oplus$ $F(K_w, w_t^*) \oplus Z' \oplus F(K_c, \text{cnt})$). After that, all pairs (xtag, ct) in M is used to generate array $CSet[i]$ by invoking XF. Update, which can hide the frequency of pair (w, w_t^*) . Finally, it outputs the secret key K = $(K_z, K_{z'}, K_r, K_w, K_c, K_{enc})$ and the encrypted database $EDB = (TSet, XSet, CSet).$

Search(K , q ; EDB): To perform equi-join over k tables, the client sends stag for pair $(w_1, \hat{attr}^*_{t_1})$, queried table indices $\{t_1, \ldots, t_k\}$, and xjointoken array to the server. Then, the server first retrieves all values $\mathsf{T}_{t_1}[\textcolor{red}{w_1} || \textcolor{red}{attr_{t_1^*}}]$ by invoking TSetRetrieve. Next, the server generates $k-1$ tokens for each retrieved value y_{cnt} (i.e., {xtoken[i] [1] = xjointoken[i][1] \oplus y_{cnt} }_{i∈[2,k]}), which is used to determine whether it is in the join of Tab_{t_1} and Tab_{t_i} . After all checkings are successful, it computes xtoken $[j][c] =$ xjointoken $[j][c] \oplus y_{\text{cnt}}$ and retrieves the corresponding ciphertext of record identifier $ct_i[c]$ by invoking XF.Search (cf. line 20-28). It then returns all ciphertexts $\{(\mathbf{ct}_1, \dots, \mathbf{ct}_k)\}$ to the client. Finally, the client decrypts them and obtains the plaintexts Res = { $(\mathbf{ind}_1, \dots, \mathbf{ind}_k) : \mathbf{ind}_1 =$ $\text{Dec}(K_{\text{enc},w_1}, \text{ct}_1), \ldots, \text{ind}_k = \text{Dec}(K_{\text{enc},w_k}, \text{ct}_k)\}.$

5 Security Analysis

Assume that a database DB = {Tab_i, W_i }_{i∈[N]} consists of N tables, and each Tab_i has m_i rows and n_i columns. We define a sequence of Q queries as **q**, where the *i*-th query, for $1 \le i \le$

Q, is represented as $q[i] = (\{t_1[i], ..., t_k[i]\}, \{w_1[i], ..., w_k[i]\},$ { $\text{attr}_{t_1}^*[i], \ldots, \text{attr}_{t_k}^*[i]$ }). Then the leakage function $\mathcal{L}_{JXT^+} = (n, RP,$ EP, SP₁, JD) for JXT+ and \mathcal{L}_{JXT++} = (n, RP, EP, JD) for JXT++ are defined as follows:

- n is the size pattern of tables, representing the size of each table in DB. Formally, $n[i] = m_i n_i$ for $i \in [N]$.
- RP is the *result pattern*, which is the set of records matching each query. Formally, $RP[i] = DB(q[i]), i \in [Q]$.
- EP = (EP_1, \ldots, EP_k) represents the *equality patterns* over $\mathbf{w}_1 ||\mathbf{attr^*_{t_1}}, \dots, \mathbf{w}_k ||\mathbf{attr^*_{t_k}},$ respectively. Specifically, EP₁ indicates which queries have equal combination of $\mathbf{w}_1[i] || \text{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_1}[i]$ for $i \in [Q]$. Formally, we represent EP_1 as an integer vector and each integer refers to a unique combination. That is, $EP_1[i] = EP_1[j]$ if $(\mathbf{w}_1[i] || \mathbf{attr}^*_{t_1}[i]) = (\mathbf{w}_1[j] || \mathbf{attr}^*_{t_1}[j])$ for *i*, $j \in [Q]$ and $i \neq j$. EP₂, ..., EP_k are defined similarly.
- SP = (SP_1, \ldots, SP_k) is the size patterns over the combinations $\mathbf{w}_1 ||\mathbf{attr^*_{t_1}}, \dots, \mathbf{w}_k ||\mathbf{attr^*_{t_k}}.$ Concretely, SP₁ indicates the number of records matching w_1 ||att $r_{t_1}^*$ in TSet during each join query. Formally, $SP_1[i] = |T_{t_1[i]}[w_1[i]||attr^*_{t_1}[i]]|$ for $i \in [Q].$
- JD is the join-attribute distribution pattern, which mainly leaks the join-attribute values corresponding to the combination of attribute-value pair $\mathbf{w}_1[i]$ and join attribute $\mathbf{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_1}[i]$ in table Tab_{t₁[*i*]}. More formally, for each $i \in [Q]$, we denote $JD[i]$ as a multi-set

$$
JD[i] = \{encode(val^*) : (ind, w_1[i]) \in Tab_{t_1[i]}
$$

$$
\wedge (ind, \langle attr_{t_1}^*[i], val^* \rangle) \in Tab_{t_1[i]} \}.
$$

Before presenting the formal security analysis of our schemes, we first recall the conditional intersection pattern (IP) leakage in [\[22\]](#page-13-9) considering query on two tables, and introduce the sub-query result pattern (SRP) leakage.

- IP is the conditional intersection pattern which is a $Q \times Q$ table. Specifically, for each $i, j \in [Q]$, IP $[i, j]$ is empty if one of the following conditions holds:
	- $-$ (t₁[*i*], t₂[*i*], attr_{t₁}[*i*], attr_{t₁}[*i*]) ≠ $(t_1[j], t_2[j], \text{attr}_{t_1}^*[j], \text{attr}_{t_2}^*[j]).$ – JD $[i]$ ∩ JD $[j] = \emptyset$.

Otherwise, $IP[i, j]$ is defined as the intersection of all record identifiers matching the attribute-value pair $w_2[i]$ and $w_2[j]$ in table $\textsf{Tab}_{\mathsf{t}_2[\,i\,]}$. More formally, we have

 $IP[i, j] = DB_{Tab_{t_2}[i]}(w_2[i]) \cap DB_{Tab_{t_2}[j]}(w_2[j]).$

• SRP is the sub-query result pattern, which is represented as a collection of $Q \times (k-1)$ sets. Formally, for $i \in [Q]$, we first divide q[i] into $(k - 1)$ sub-queries, that is, for $j \in [k - 1]$,

$$
q_j[i] = (\{t_1[i], t_{j+1}[i]\}, \{w_1[i], w_{j+1}[i]\},
$$

$$
\{attr_{t_1}^*[i], attr_{t_{j+1}}^*[i]\}).
$$

Then $SRP[i][j]$ is the search result for the *j*-th sub-query $q_i[i]$. More formally, for $i \in [Q]$ and $j \in [k-1]$, we have $SRP[i][j] = DB(q_i[i]).$

Leakage Comparison on Equi-join without Pre-computation: Similar to JXT, our proposed schemes JXT+ and JXT++ can support join queries without join pre-computation. So, we provide a detailed

leakage comparison of the three schemes, as shown in Table [2.](#page-9-1) Note that JXT and JXT+ support join query on two tables, while JXT++ works on multiple tables. In the following, we give the details.

All three schemes have the leakage of table size pattern n, which comes from the size of TSet. The equality pattern EP can be derived from the repetition of stag and xjointoken when performing a query for the same attribute-value pair w and $attr^*$. Specifically, in IXT, the client generates stag⁽¹⁾ and stag⁽²⁾ for the queried attributevalue pair w_1 of Tab_{t1} and w_2 of Tab_{t2}, respectively. Thus JXT leaks the exact equality patterns of w_1 and w_2 , being also denoted as EP_1 and EP2. Additionally, the server in JXT proceeds to retrieve the search results for w_1 and w_2 based on $\mathrm{stag}^{\hat{(1)}}$ and $\mathrm{stag}^{(2)}$, obviously leaking the size patterns SP_1 and SP_2 of w_1 and w_2 , respectively. In contrast, JXT+ and JXT++ leak EP_1 and EP_2 but not reveal all the size pattern SP. Note that in JXT+, the server can retrieve all records matching $w_1 || \textit{attr}_{t_1}^*$, whereas in JXT++, the server only retrieves one copy of records with the same $(w_1, \langle attr^*_{t_1}, w^*_{t_1} \rangle)$. Therefore, JXT+ has $SP₁$ leakage, while JXT++ does not.

In the following, we first analyze the subtle leakage JD. For some query $q[i]$ ($i \in [Q]$), JD[i] reflects the frequency distribution of join-attribute values w^{*} corresponding to the join attribute $\text{attr}^*_{t_1}[i]$ in the records matching the attribute-value pair ${\bf w}_1[i]$ in $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1[i]}$. In JXT and JXT+, this leakage comes from the fact that the records share the same w^* in the *i*-th query (or the records in the *i*-th and *i*th queries). Thus, for two different queries $q[i]$ and $q[j]$, the server may get the same xtoken corresponding to $(w_2[i], w^*)$ to checking whether it is in the XSet. This situation may occur if a condition $(\mathbf{w}_2[i] || \mathbf{attr}_{\mathbf{t}_2}^* [i]) = (\mathbf{w}_2[j] || \mathbf{attr}_{\mathbf{t}_2}^* [j])$ holds. JXT++ leaks the JD in different queries for reasons similar to those in JXT and JXT+. However, JXT++ does not leak JD when considering a single query (e.g. the *i*-th query), since JXT++ stores only one copy of records with the same $(w_1, \langle \textit{attr}^*_{t_1}, w^*_{t_1} \rangle)$.

JXT+ and JXT++ eliminate the IP leakage that is present in JXT. Recall that IP leakage reveals the intersection of records matching the attribute-value pair w_2 in the Tab $_{t_2}$ in different queries with the condition that there exists two records from different queries matching w_1 have identical w^* . In JXT, this leakage comes from the fact that xtag is the encrypted version of the pair (ind, w^*). That is, given a specific w^* , the server can get the identical xtoken if two queries share the same ind. For clarity, we take an example to illustrate. For the i -th and j -th query, assume that there is one record matching $\mathbf{w}_1[i]$ and another record matching $\mathbf{w}_1[j]$ have a common w^* . In this case, if the server learns the xtoken for ind_i from the results of $w_2[i]$ and ind from the results of $w_2[j]$ are identical, then $ind_i = ind_j$. In contrast, JXT+ and JXT++ remove the IP leakage since the xtag is the encrypted version of the pair $(w, attr^*, w^*)$. Therefore, the server cannot get the identical value even when a record ind matches both $w_2[i]$ and $w_2[j]$.

SRP is a straightforward leakage for multi-table queries. Specifically, the idea of performing multi-table queries is that the server first retrieves the results from \textsf{Tab}_{t_1} , and then filters the results that satisfy the sub-queries for $\textsf{Tab}_{t_2}, \cdots, \textsf{Tab}_{t_k}$ individually. Consequently, it naturally reveals the results matching \textsf{Tab}_{t_1} and \textsf{Tab}_{t_i} for $2 \le i \le k$. However, we note that the search results in JXT++ contain some dummy values for each sub-query, thus it does not have the SRP leakage.

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Table 2: Leakage comparison with JXT.

Scheme	n	RP.	EP ₁	EP ₂	SP ₁	SP ₂			SRP
IXT _[22]									
$IXT+$									
The cymbols \bullet \bullet and \cap denote fully partially and without									

The symbols \bullet , \bullet , and \circ denote fully, partially, and without revealing the leakage.

THEOREM 1. Our $JXT+$ protocol is L -semantically-secure against non-adaptive attacks where the leakage function $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}_{JXT+}(DB,q),$ $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{T}}(\mathsf{DB}, \mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{w}_1, \mathsf{attr}_{\mathbf{t}_1}^*))$, assuming that F is a secure PRF, SE is a standard IND-CPA secure symmetric encryption scheme, and TSet is a non-adaptively \mathcal{L}_{T} -secure instantiation.

THEOREM 2. Our $JXT++$ protocol is L -semantically-secure against non-adaptive attacks where the leakage function $\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}_{JXT++}(DB,q),$ $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{T}}(\mathsf{DB}, \mathsf{t}_1, \mathbf{w}_1, \mathsf{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_1})),$ assuming that F is a secure PRF, SE is a standard IND-CPA secure symmetric encryption scheme, and TSet is a non-adaptively \mathcal{L}_{T} -secure instantiation.

The proof of Theorem [1](#page-9-2) is provided in Appendix [A.](#page-13-24) Additionally, the proof of Theorem [2](#page-9-3) is similar to that of Theorem [1](#page-9-2) and is omitted. We remark that both of our protocols are also secure against adaptive attacks. Here, the adaptive security proof is essentially an extension of the non-adaptive proof. In brief, the key difference is that the adaptive security proof involves using the adaptive TSet simulator, XSet and CSet are be simulated to adaptively respond to the adversary's queries. Note that the proofs of adaptive security for our protocols are also similar to those of [\[22\]](#page-13-9), so we omit the details.

6 Performance Evaluation

In this section, we provide a detailed asymptotic comparison between our proposed schemes and the most related works. We then describe the implementation configuration and present the detailed experimental results.

6.1 Theoretical Comparison

In the following, we present a performance comparison of JXT+ and JXT++ with SPX [\[25\]](#page-13-3), CNR [\[11\]](#page-12-2) and JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9) in terms of query and storage efficiency. For simplicity, we consider a database including two tables, $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1}, \textsf{Tab}_{t_2},$ each with m rows, n columns, and T join attributes, and suppose the query $q =$ (Select *inds* From Tab_{t1}, Tab_{t2} Join On $attr_{t_1}^* = attr_{t_2}^*$ Where $w_1 \wedge w_2$). A summary of the comparison is given in Table [1.](#page-1-0)

Storage Overhead. We first focus on the storage size of SPX, CNR, JXT, JXT+, and JXT++. Note that the storage of JXT and our schemes is considered table-wise. Specifically, SPX produces three encrypted multi-maps EMM_R , EMM_C , EMM_V and an encrypted dictionary EDX. EMM $_R$ is a row-wise representation of the database that maps</sub> the row's identifier to all the encrypted entries in that row. Similarly, EMM_C is a column-wise representation of the database that maps the column's identifier to the encrypted entries in that column. EMM $_V$ maps each value in a column to the rows' identifiers containing that value. In other words, each of the three encrypted multi-maps encrypts every cell in a table, requiring $O(mn)$ storage. EDX consists of a set of multi-maps, and each includes the pre-computation of all the join results for a join attribute. Thus, the size of EDX depends on the number of join attributes and the

number of rows satisfying the join. In the best case, no results are satisfying the join, then EDX will be empty; while in the worst case, each join-attribute shares the common value in two tables, then the size of EDX is $O(m^2T)$. In summary, the storage size of SPX is $O(mn) + O(m^2T)$.

CNR generates an encrypted multi-map EM and a filter HS of a set SET. EM is similar to EMM_V in SPX that maps each value in every column to the row's identifiers containing that value, thus it requires $O(mn)$ storage. In contrast to EDX in SPX, SET in CNR contains the pre-computation of joining rows from each table separately to reduce the storage size. When the join attributes share a common value (i.e., worst case), then the size of SET is $O(mT)$. Hence, the overall storage size of CNR is $O(mn) + O(mT)$.

JXT generates an encrypted multi-map TSet and a set XSet. Specifically, for each attribute-value pair w in the database, TSet stores the encrypted record identifiers, the T combinations of record identifier and join attribute, as well as the T combinations of joinattribute value and attribute-value pair, denoted as $(ct, \{y_t, y_t'\}_{t \in [T]})$. This results in a storage overhead of $(2T + 1)mn$. XSet stores all the combinations of record identifiers and corresponding join-attribute value pairs in the database, having mT storage size. Therefore, the total storage size of JXT is $(2T + 1)mn + mT$.

JXT+ produces an encrypted multi-maps TSet, a set XSet and a multi-map CSet. For every attribute-value pair w and join attribute attr^{*}, TSet encrypts the pair of the attribute-value pair and corresponding join-attribute value for the join-attribute name (e.g., (w, w^*)). Hence the storage size of TSet is mnT . For each attributevalue pair w , XSet stores combinations of attribute-value pair, joinattribute name, and join-attribute value (e.g., $(w, attr^*, w^*)$). Note that only one copy is stored for the duplicated $(w, attr^*, w^*)$ in XSet. Specifically, it has a storage size of $\sum_{i \in [n], j \in [T]} m_{i,i}^-$, where $m_{i,i}^-$ denotes the number of distinct $(w, attr^*, w^*)$ for the *i*-th attribute column and the j -th join-attribute column. The corresponding sizes are mnT and nT for the worst and best cases, respectively. CSet is used to store all encrypted record identifiers indexed by $(w, attr^*, w^*)$ and has a storage size of mnT . Overall the total storage sizes of JXT+ are $3mnT$ and $2mnT+nT$ for the worst and best cases, respectively.

Similar to JXT+, JXT++ produces an encrypted multi-map TSet, a set XSet and a map CSet. To hide the frequency of join-attribute values, both TSet and XSet in JXT++ will save a single copy for the duplicated $(w, attr^*, w^*)$. Besides, the CSet with the size of mnT is mapped to an XOR filter by padding dummy values for removing SRP leakage. This results in $1.23mnT$ storage overhead. Therefore, the total storage sizes of JXT++ are $3.23mnT$ and $1.23mnT+2nT$ for worst and best cases, respectively.

Search Efficiency. Next, we proceed to examine the efficiency of performing a query $q =$ (Select *inds* From Tab_{t1}, Tab_{t2}, Join On $attr_{t_1}^* = attr_{t_2}^*$ Where $w_1 \wedge w_2$). During the search phase, the computational costs are divided between the client and the server. In detail, the client generates the search token and then the server performs a search to retrieve the search results and finally the client decrypts them.

In SPX, the client generates tokens for w_1 , w_2 and $attr^*_{t_1} = attr^*_{t_2}$ respectively, resulting in $O(1) Prf$. Then the server queries EMM_V based on the tokens of w_1 and w_2 to recover ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 records; and

queries EDX based on the tokens of $attr^*_{t_1} = attr^*_{t_2}$ to recover $|R_j$ | records, where $|R_I|$ is the number of records satisfying the join $attr_{t_1}^* = attr_{t_2}^*$; and performs intersection of the results to obtain the final encrypted results R . The decryption of R is performed on the client side. Thus, the query computation cost is $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2 +$ $|R_J|$)EMM_{qry} (server side) and $O(1)Pr \hat{f} + O(|R|)Dec$ (client side), respectively.

To reduce storage size, CNR introduces the technique of partially pre-computed joins at the cost of additional client-side computation. That is, the client requires constant PRF to generate the search token of $(w_1, w_2, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*, \text{attr}_{t_2}^*)$. On receiving the search token, the server first retrieves the matching records (ℓ_1 and ℓ_2) from encrypted multimap EM with $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2)$ EMM_{qry} computation cost, and then checks whether each result of w_1 (resp. w_2) joins with some value of $attr^*_{t_2}$ (resp. $attr_{t_1}^*$) based on the filter HS by $O(t_1 + t_2)$ Prf operation. Therefore, the server computational cost is $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2)$ (EMM_{qry} + Prf) in total. Note that the client needs to decrypt the search result and perform join locally, so the search cost is $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2)Dec +$ $O(\ell_1\ell_2)$ Join.

Both of the mentioned schemes involve (full or partial) join precomputation and lead to either high storage size or heavy client computational cost. In contrast, JXT, JXT+, and JXT++ construct table-wise index structures with joinable attributes, avoiding prohibitive join pre-computation. More concretely, the client in JXT generates search tokens for w_1 and w_2 and computes $\ell_1 + \ell_2$ cross-tokens xjointoken, incurring a cost of $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2) Pr f$. On the server side, it retrieves ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 encrypted identifiers matching with w_1 and w_2 , respectively, and then performs join with all possible combinations. Thus, the total search cost is $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2)$ EMM_{qry} + $O(\ell_1 \ell_2)X$ or. The decryption of identifiers is performed by the client and the entire cost is $O(\ell_1 + \ell_2) Pr f + O(|R|) Dec.$

To further reduce join cost, JXT+ stores all combinations of attribute-value pair and join-attribute value (e.g., (w_1, w_1^*)) in each table and achieves the join by checking the combination of $(w_2,$ $attr_{t_2}^*, w_1^*$) in XSet. Specifically, it spends $O(\ell_1)$ EMM_{qry} to retrieve the records matching $w_1 || \text{attr}_{t_1}^*$, an additional $O(t_1)X$ or to perform join with $(w_2, \text{attr}^*_{t_2})$, and $O(|R|)H$ to retrieve the matched encrypted record identifiers ct . The total query cost for the server is $O(\ell_1)$ (EMM_{qry} + Xor) + $O(|R|)H$. In terms of client, the cost consists of token generation for pair $(w_1, attr^*_{t_1})$ and decryption on R search result. i.e., $O(\ell_1) Pr f + O(|R|) Dec.$

JXT++ is derived from JXT+ to handle multiple tables. To hide the real number of occurrences of (w, w^*) , all the occurrences of each pair of (w, w^*) are to pad with dummy strings to the maximum volume l_{max} . This results in $O(\ell_1)$ EMM_{qry}+ $O(\ell_1 l_{max})(Xor+H)$ in the worst case (Assuming that all l_1 records satisfying the query q) cost due to the retrieving of dummy data. While the client needs to generate tokens for pair $(w_1, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*),$ compute cross-tokens xjointoken, and decrypt all the result. Its computation cost is $O(l_{max})Prf +$ $O(\ell_1 l_{max})$ Dec.

6.2 Implementation Configuration

We implement our schemes and JXT [\[22\]](#page-13-9) by using JAVA, employing the JDK library for cryptographic operations like AES and SHA-256. In our experiments, we adopt such a database consisting of 6 tables, and each table owns 65,535 rows and 11 attribute columns (including

Figure 1: Storage Overhead Comparison Figure 2: Query Time (all matched) Figure 3: Query Time (partly matched)

Table 3: Storage cost evaluation.

Scheme	$H(X)^6 = 16$	$H(X) = 14$	$H(X) = 12$
IXT _[22]	55.1MB	53.6MB	53.2MB
$IXT+$	39.5MB	29.6MB	27.1MB
$IXT++$	43.7MB	22.5MB	17.2MB

one record identifier column). In total, the dataset involves 393,210 rows and 60 attribute columns. All experiments are conducted on the same machine equipped with Intel i5-11500 2.70GHz CPU and 16GB RAM. To ensure precise cost measurement, all experiments are executed on the same device for both the client and server. The reported running times are the average values derived from 1000 $\frac{1}{2}$ experiments. Our source code is available on GitHub^{[5](#page-0-0)}.

We will provide a complete evaluation of setup and search costs in JXT, JXT+, and JXT++. Specifically, we first evaluate the time cost and storage size for generating an encrypted table with various numbers of join attributes. We also discuss the required storage size with different entropies of join-attribute. To achieve a reasonable comparison on join query, we first perform equi-join queries over two tables, covering all cases where the intermediate result from TSet all or partly match the query criteria. We further evaluate the time cost of equi-join query over multiple tables. Due to the original JXT and JXT+ support only two-table join, the corresponding variants (i.e., MJXT and MJXT+) are used to perform multiple-table join comparison in our experiment. To reflect the influence of result volume, we compare the query time cost of JXT++ based on different volume lengths L_{max} .

Figure 4: Setup Time Comparison Figure 5: Query Time With Tables Figure 6: Query Time With Volumes

In the following experiments, the XSet is implemented by Bloom filter with approximate 10^{-12} false positive rate. The CSet in JXT+ is constructed as the multi-map, and in JXT++ is realized as the XOR filter whose storage capacity is $\lfloor 1.23n \rfloor + \beta$. According to [\[15,](#page-13-10) [37\]](#page-13-6), to guarantee the probability of success and relatively less storage, the parameter β of the XOR filter is set to 2 in our construction.

6.3 Evaluation and Comparison

Storage Cost. We note that in JXT, JXT+, and JXT++, each table in the database is stored independently, and the total storage cost is essentially the sum of the size of all (encrypted) tables. Thus, we focus mainly on the storage overhead for each individual table. Note that the server-side storage overhead of JXT is dominated by TSet and XSet, while CSet is additionally required for both JXT+ and JXT++.

To provide an overall evaluation of storage cost, we choose 1/2/3/4/5 attributes from 10 attributes as join attributes, respectively. To facilitate comparison, all join attributes are high-entropy attribute columns, where the frequency of each join-attribute value is set to 2. As shown in Figure [1,](#page-11-0) our two protocols require less storage than that of JXT, even with additional data structure CSet. The main reason is the sizes of XSet in JXT and our schemes are mT , nT (best case), respectively, where m (resp. n) denotes the row (resp. column) number. Our two schemes require less storage cost in most cases. In particular, we perform the storage cost comparison of all the above schemes with different entropies of the join attribute. As indicated in Table [3,](#page-11-1) as the decrease of join-attribute entropy, the total storage cost is reduced. when the entropy of join attribute is set to 12, the storage cost of JXT is 53.2MB, while those of JXT+ and JXT++ are 27.1MB and 17.2MB, which brings a storage saving of 49% and 68%, respectively.

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⁵[https://github.com/CDSecLab/MJXT.](https://github.com/CDSecLab/MJXT)

 $^{6}H(X)$ refers to the entropy of the distribution of join-attribute values X.

Setup Evaluation. Next, we discuss the setup efficiency for tables with $1/2/3/4/5$ join attributes, chosen from a total of 10 attributes. The setup cost includes generating TSet and XSet for three schemes and additionally generating CSet for JXT+ and JXT++. Figure [4](#page-11-0) illustrates that the setup cost for all three schemes increases with the number of join attributes. Specifically, JXT+ is less efficient than JXT due to the additional generation of CSet. JXT++ is the least efficient, as it further generates the XOR filter of CSet.

Query Evaluation. In the following, we investigate the query efficiency, which consists of the total time of generating the search token and decrypting search results on the client side, and performing search on the server side.

Firstly, we discuss the time cost of join query over two tables when the retrieved TSet entries (i.e., matched records in TSet) all satisfy the search condition. The number of retrieved TSet entries is set as $1,000/2,000/$... $/10,000$ for each query, respectively. As depicted in Figure [2,](#page-11-0) the query time cost of all the mentioned schemes increases with the matched records in TSet growth. It can be observed that JXT+ and JXT++ are superior to JXT in search latency. Specifically, for the number of matched records is 1, 000, JXT takes 61 *to fetch 1, 000* $*$ *2 identifiers (from two joined- tables) and* decrypt all of them, while JXT+ takes 11.2 ms, a speedup of $5.5\times$, and JXT++ takes 9.7 ms , a speedup of 6.3 \times . For the number of matched records is 10, 000, JXT takes 4, 651.5 ms to fetch 10, 000 $*$ 2 identifiers and decrypt all of them, while JXT+ takes 89.9 ms, a speedup of 51.7 \times , and JXT++ takes 85.7ms, a speedup of 54.3 \times .

Next, we evaluate the query efficiency when the retrieved TSet entries partially satisfy the query. In detail, the number of retrieved entries from TSet is fixed as 1, 000, and the number of final result is 10%/20%/. . . /100% of retrieved TSet entries. As shown in Figure [3,](#page-11-0) JXT is minimally affected by the size of the final results. This is because the server-side cost depends only on the number of entries retrieved from TSet, while the client decrypts the reduced size of the final search results. Therefore, a smaller result size reduces the client's decryption time. In contrast, JXT+ and JXT++ become more efficient as the size of the final results decreases. The reason is that the server only retrieves the items in CSet satisfying the query (i.e., the final search results). Figure [3](#page-11-0) shows that when the size of final results is 100, JXT takes 46.2ms to obtain the final results, while JXT+ takes only 1.4ms, achieving a speedup of $33\times$. JXT++ is more efficient, taking just 0.9 ms, resulting in a speedup of $51.3\times$.

We now consider performing queries over 2/3/4/5/6 tables. In Figure [5,](#page-11-0) we evaluate the query time of MJXT, MJXT, and JXT++ under the condition that each table contains 1,000 matching identifiers. The results show that the query time for all three schemes increases as the number of joined tables grows, due to the additional computation and retrieval of more identifiers. Notably, JXT++ performs the best, despite offering the highest level of security. In addition, Figure [6](#page-11-0) illustrates the impact of the volume length L_{max} on the query time of JXT++, where L_{max} captures the maximum occurrence number of all pairs (w, w^*) . As the maximum volume length L_{max} increases, the query time of JXT++ grows linearly. This is because the server must handle and decrypt additional matching results, which arise from the increased dummy padding associated with the growth in L_{max} . In particular, when $L_{max} = 1000$, the

query time for $JXT++$ on the two tables approaches $90ms$. Therefore, by setting L_{max} in join queries, we can achieve higher security while maintaining reasonable efficiency.

7 Conclusion

In this paper, we investigate secure join queries without join precomputation in encrypted relational databases. We first present JXT+, a new equi-join query protocol over two tables without join pre-computation, which can support joins of attributes with different names and achieve better query efficiency. We then design the first equi-join query protocol across three or more tables, dubbed JXT++, which enjoys joins of arbitrary attributes even low-entropy attributes, while providing a tunable query complexity. Furthermore, we implement our two protocols and perform a complete comparison with the state-of-the-art JXT. Experimental results demonstrate that both of our proposed schemes are superior to JXT in terms of query and storage efficiency while achieving more powerful functionality.

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A Proof of Non-adaptive Security for JXT+

We prove this theorem by a sequence of games G_0, \ldots, G_7 . Each game begins with an Initialize routine that takes (DB, q) as input from the adversary A , who finally outputs a bit as the game's output based on the routine's result. The first game G_0 has the identical distribution to "real-world" game $\text{Real}_{\mathcal{A}}^{|\widetilde{XH+}}(\lambda)$ and the final one G_7 can be simulated with leakage profile instead of the actual (DB, q) . For simplicity, a sequence of Q non-adaptive join queries across

two tables is denoted as $\mathbf{q} = (\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2, \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_1}, \mathbf{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_2}),$ where each query $q[i] = (t_1[i], t_2[i], w_1[i], w_2[i], attr^*_{t_1}[i], attr^*_{t_2}[i])$ is a two-table join query "Select inds From $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1[\,i\,]}$ and $\textsf{Tab}_{t_2[\,i\,]}$ Join on $\text{attr}_{t_1}^*[i] = \text{attr}_{t_2}^*[i]$ Where $\text{w}_1[i] \wedge \text{w}_2[i]$, for $1 \leq i \leq Q$. In the following, we will provide the details of each game and formally prove the computational indistinguishability between them.

Game G₀: This game is instantiated based on Real^{JXT+}(λ) with minor differences. Specifically, this game simulates the encrypted database EDB and the transcript Tr by running Initialize based on (DB, q) selected by the adversary \mathcal{A} . (1) EDB = (TSet, XSet, CSet) is simulated exactly as EDBSetup(DB) described in the real game. (2) $Tr[i] = ((Stags[i], xjointoken_1[i], xjointoken_2[i]), ResCT[i],$ ResInd[i]) for each query i ($1 \le i \le Q$) is generated as in the real game, except that the plaintext result ResInd is derived from DB rather than from decrypting the encrypted search result ResCT. Thus, assuming no false positives, the distribution of G_0 matches **Real**^{J_A T+}(λ), so we have

$$
\Pr[G_0 = 1] \le \Pr[\text{Real}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\text{JXT+}}(\lambda) = 1] + \text{negl}(\lambda).
$$

Game G₁: In this game, the PRFs $F(K_z, \cdot)$, $F(K_w, \cdot)$, $F(K_r, \cdot)$, and $F(K_{\text{enc}}, \cdot)$ are replaced with the independent random functions or selections with the appropriate domain and range. Therefore, there exists an efficient adversary B_1 such that

$$
\left|\Pr\left[G_1=1\right]-\Pr\left[G_0=1\right]\right|\leq 4\cdot Adv_{F,\mathcal{B}_1}^{\text{PRF}}(\lambda).
$$

Game G_2 : This game is identical to game G_1 , except that the ciphertext *ct* is generated with encryption of a string 0^{λ} instead of the actual record identifier used in the real game. Given that the number of encryption operations is polynomial, i.e., $poly(\lambda)$, an efficient adversary B_2 can be constructed such that

$$
\left|\Pr\left[G_2=1\right]-\Pr\left[G_1=1\right]\right|\leq poly(\lambda)\cdot Adv_{\text{SE},\mathcal{B}_2}^{\text{IND}-\text{CPA}}(\lambda).
$$

Game G_3 : This game differs in the computation process but is distributionally identical to G_2 . Specifically, it precomputes all possible values for generating XSet, CSet, xjointoken₁, and xjointoken₂ and collects them in arrays H and Y . These include values present in XSet and CSet, all possible values for membership testing in XSet, and values for xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂ that do not correspond to any potential matches. Then the corresponding values in XSet and CSet are selected from H, while xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂ are computed by choosing values from either H or Y . Thus, we have

$$
Pr[G_3 = 1] = Pr[G_2 = 1].
$$

Game G₄: This game is exactly like G₃ except that each ψ in T and the values in *H* and *Y* arrays are choosen at randomly from $\{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$. We claim that

$$
Pr[G_4 = 1] = Pr[G_3 = 1].
$$

Game G5: In this game, instead invoking the real TSetSetup and TSetGetTag to compute TSet and STags, they are generated by constructing a non-adaptive simulator \mathcal{S}_{T} on input $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{T}}(\mathsf{DB},\mathsf{t}_1,\mathsf{w}_1,\mathsf{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_1})$ and T_{t_1} [w₁||attr_{t_1}]. Therefore, a non-adaptive secure TSet instantiation ensures the existence of S_T such that the following holds:

$$
\left|\Pr\left[G_5=1\right]-\Pr\left[G_4=1\right]\right|\leq Adv_{\mathcal{B}_5,\mathcal{S}_T}^{\text{Test}}(\lambda).
$$

I

Game G_6 : This game modifies the access to the H and Y arrays to ensure compatibility with the final simulator using the leakage

profile. When accessing H at (w, attr^*, w^*) or Y at (w, u, c) , the game first checks if that index will be accessed again. If so, it uses the existing value; if not, it substitutes a random value. Since those indices won't be reused, this change doesn't affect the distribution of the game. Notably, the Y array is only accessed once during transcript generation and can be replaced with random values, so leading to the removal of the Y array from this game.

Next, we describe the way of accessing the H array. The H array is accessed only during two processes: (1) XSet&CSetSetup: the generation of XSet and CSet, and (2) GenTrans: the generation of the transcript, specifically for xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂.

The $XSet&CSetSetup$ routine does not repeatedly access H , but some of them might be accessed by GenTrans. We observe that GenTrans reads indices such that $(\mathbf{w}_1[i] = w \vee \mathbf{w}_2[i] = w) \wedge w^* \in$ {val[∗] : (ind₁, attr_{tttttttttttttlatture i delta^[i] ∧ (ind₂, attrt_{tz}[i], val[∗]) ∈} $\textsf{Tab}_{t_2}[i] \wedge (\textsf{ind}_1, \mathbf{w}_1[i]) \in \textsf{Tab}_{t_1[i]} \wedge (\textsf{ind}_2, \mathbf{w}_2[i]) \in \textsf{Tab}_{t_2[i]}\}\$ for a given query i . Therefore, we use the corresponding values from H at these indices in the generation of XSet and CSet and replace the others with random values.

In the GenTrans routine, we need to check for repeated index accesses, including positions read by XSet&CSetSetup or revisited by GenTrans itself. First, we determine which indices correspond to the final matches and access values from H at these positions. These values are clearly among those accessed by XSet&CSetSetup, so GenTrans tests for the same condition. Then, we observe that some positions are accessed twice in two different GenTrans calls. For some $i \neq j$, w^* is an element of both $\{val^* : (ind, w_1[j]) \in$ $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1}[j] \wedge (\textsf{ind},\textsf{attr}_{t_1}^*[j], \textsf{val}^*) \in \textsf{Tab}_{t_1}[j] \}$ and $\{\textsf{val}^*: (\textsf{ind},\textbf{w}_1[i]) \in$ $\textsf{Tab}_{t_1[i]} \wedge (\textsf{ind}, \textsf{attr}_{t_1}^*[i], \textsf{val}^*) \in \textsf{Tab}_{t_1[i]}\}.$ For these repeated accesses determined by w^* , we use the values from H. In all other cases, GenTrans replaces the H accesses with random values.

Based on the above observations and discussion, we have

$$
\Pr[\mathrm{G}_6 = 1] = \Pr[\mathrm{G}_5 = 1].
$$

Simulator: This game constructs a simulator S and takes the leakage profile $\mathcal{L}(DB, q)$ as an input, which consists of $\mathcal{L}_{|XT+}(DB, q)$, $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{T}}(\textsf{DB},\mathsf{t}_1,\mathbf{w}_1,\textsf{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_1}),$ and $\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{t}_1}[\mathbf{w}_1||\textsf{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_1}].$ It finally outputs the simulated EDB = (TSet, XSet, CSet) and transcripts $Tr =$ ((STags, xjointoken $_1$, xjointoken $_2$), ResCT, ResInd), which has same distribution as G_6 .

TSet Simulation: The non-adaptive simulator S_T is invoked to generate TSet and STags based on $\mathcal{L}_{\sf T}({\sf DB},\mathbf{t}_1,{\sf w}_1,\mathbf{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_1}),$ and ${\sf T}_{\mathbf{t}_1}[{\sf w}_1||\mathbf{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_1}],$ which has the same distribution as in G_6 . Note that $T_{t_1}[w_1]$ attr $_{t_1}^*$] can be computed by randomly selecting y from $\{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$.

Next, we utilize the leakage $\mathcal{L}_{|X\mathsf{T}_{+}}(DB,q) = (n, RP, EP_1, EP_2,$ $SP₁, JD)$ to simulate XSet and CSet, and then produce the transcript Tr. Before this, the simulator S preprocesses some leakage to

facilitate their use. Specifically, the simulator S first generates two leakage variants \overline{RP} and \overline{EP}_2 based on the result pattern leakage RP and the equality pattern leakage EP_2 , respectively.

- For each join query $q[i]$ $(i \in [Q])$, $\overline{RP}[i] = \{encode(val^*)$: ind ∈ RP[*i*] ∧ (ind, att $\mathbf{r}_{t_1}^*$ [*i*], val^{*}) ∈ Tab_{t₁[*i*]}} is a multi-set of join-attribute values (in the randomized encoding version) for the record identifiers appearing in the final result $RP[i]$ $\underline{\text{in}}$ table Tab $_{\mathsf{t}_1[\,i\,]}$.
- \overline{EP}_2 is the restricted equality pattern of w_2 and is also represented by an integer vector, which can be derived from EP₂ and JD. Specifically, we define $\overline{\text{EP}}_2[i] = \overline{\text{EP}}_2[j]$ iff $\text{EP}_2[i] =$ EP₂[*j*] and JD[*i*] \cap JD[*j*] $\neq \emptyset$ for *i*, *j* \in [*Q*].

XSet and CSet Simulation: The simulator S precomputes the H array by combining EP_1 with JD and \overline{EP}_2 with JD, encompassing all values $H[w, w^*]$ that may or may not be accessed, where w is from EP and w^* is from JD. Then the simulator uses the variant $\overline{\text{RP}}$ of result pattern leakage to select the corresponding values $H[w, w^*]$ that may appear in the result set and store them into XSet. Simultaneously, the simulator inserts $(H[w, w^*], ct)$ into CSet, where ct is the ciphertext of 0^{λ} .

Transcript Simulation: The simulator S computes the transcript $Tr[i] = ((STags[i], xjointoken₁[i], xjointoken₂[i]), ResCT[i], ResInd[i]),$ for $1 \le i \le Q$. Specifically, STags is simulated within TSet simulation, ResInd[i] can be derived from RP[i], and ResCT[i] is simulated by the server search subroutine as described in real game. Furthermore, we describe how to compute xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂. S collects the encoding of the join-attribute values for a given *i* as $R \leftarrow \overline{RP}[i] \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{Q} \overline{DP}[j] \cap \overline{JD}[i]$ and puts them in canonical order as $(\bar{w}_1^*, \bar{w}_2^*, \dots, \bar{w}_{|R|}^*) \leftarrow R$. Since each index in *R* belongs to $DB_{Tab_1}^{Join}(w_1)$, it follows $|R| \le SP_1[i]$. *S* pads $|R|$ up to $SP_1[i]$ by setting $\overline{w}_k^* \leftarrow \perp$ for $k = |R| + 1, \ldots, SP_1[i]$. The ∗ simulator then determines whether xjointoken is obtained from H array or random values. Specifically, for $c = 1, \ldots, SP_1[i]$, if $\bar{w}_c^* \neq \perp$, then xjointoken₁ [c] and xjointoken₂ [c] are computed by using $H[w, w^*] \oplus y$; otherwise, they are assigned random values from $\{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$. In addition, for $c = \text{SP}_1[i] + 1, \ldots, T_{\text{max}}$, we also select random values for xjointoken $_1[c]$ and xjointoken $_2[c]$. Note that T_{max} is an upper bound to fix the number of xjointoken for simplicity. Thus, the distributions of xjointoken₁ and xjointoken₂ generated by the simulator are the same as those produced in G_6 .

In summary, the simulator S with the leakage $\mathcal{L}(DB, q)$ generates a distribution identical to that of G_6 , so we complete the proof.

Algorithm 4 Game G0

Algorithm 5 Game G_1 and Game G_2 Initialize(DB, t $_1$, t $_2$, w $_1$, w $_2$, attr $_{\mathsf{t}_1}^{*}$, attr $_{\mathsf{t}_2}^{*}$)

 $XSet&CSetStep(f_z, f_w, f_r, DB)$

Algorithm 6 Game G_3 and Game G_4

Initialize(DB, t_1 , t_2 , w_1 , w_2 , $\text{attr}^*_{t_1}$, $\text{attr}^*_{t_2}$) 1: $f_z, f_w, f_r \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \text{Fun}(\{0,1\}^{\lambda}), \{\text{Tab}_i, \text{W}_i\}_{i \in [N]} \leftarrow \text{DB}$ 2: for $i = 1$ to N do 3: **for** $w \in W_i$ and $attr^* \in \text{Tab}_i$ and $w^* \in \text{DB}$ **do** 4: $Z_0 \leftarrow f_z(w||0)$ 5: $H[w, attr^*, w^*] \leftarrow f_r(attr^*) \oplus f_w(w^*) \oplus Z_0$ 6: $H[w, attr^*, w^*] \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 7: end for 8: end for 9: for $i = 1$ to N do 10: T_i ← empty array 11: for $w \in W_i$ do 12: $\{(\overline{\text{ind}}_1, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t\in[T]}), \dots, (\overline{\text{ind}}_{T_w}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t\in[T]})\} \leftarrow$ $DB^{Join}_{Tab_i}(w)$ 13: for $c = 1, \ldots, T_w$ do 14: $Z_{\text{cnt}} \leftarrow f_z(w||c)$ 15: for $t \in [T]$ do 16: $y \leftarrow f_w(w_t^*) \oplus Z_{\text{cnt}}$ $17:$ \boldsymbol{u} $\xrightarrow{\$}$ {0, 1}^{λ} 18: $\mathsf{T}_i[w||attr_t^*][c] \leftarrow y$ 19: end for 20: end for 21: for $u \in w \cup \bigcup_{j \in [N] \setminus \{i\}} W_j$ do 22: **for** $c = T_w + 1, ..., T_{\text{max}}$ **do** 23: for $t \in [T]$ do 24: $Y[w, u, c] \leftarrow f_z(w||c) \oplus f_z(u||0)$ 25: $Y[w, u, c] \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 26: end for 27: end for 28: end for 29: end for 30: end for 31: $(TSet, K_T) \leftarrow TSetSetup(T_1||...||T_N)$ 32: for $i = 1$ to Q do 33: STags[*i*] ← TSetGetTag(K_T , (t₁[*i*], $\mathbf{w}_1[i] || \mathbf{attr}^*_{t_1}[i])$) 34: end for 35: (XSet, CSet) ← XSet&CSetSetup(DB, H) 36: EDB ← (TSet, XSet, CSet) 37: for $i = 1$ to Q do 38: $\text{Tr}[i] \leftarrow \text{GenTrans}(\text{DB}, \text{EDB}, f_r, H, Y, t_1[i], t_2[i], w_1[i], w_2[i],$ $\text{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_1}[i], \text{attr}^*_{\mathsf{t}_2}[i], \text{STags}[i])$ 39: end for 40: return (EDB, Tr) XSet&CSetSetup(DB, H) 1: ${\text{Tab}_i, \text{W}_i}_{i \in [N]}$ ← DB 2: for $i = 1$ to N do 3: $XSet[i] \leftarrow \emptyset, CSet[i] \leftarrow empty$ multi-map 4: **for** $w \in W_i$ and $(\text{ind}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]}) \in DB_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w)$ do 5: $XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{H[w, attr_t^*, w_t^*]\}$ 6: $K_{\text{enc},w} \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ 7: $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, 0^{\lambda})$ 8: CSet[i] \leftarrow CSet[i].Put($H[w, attr_t^*, w_t^*], ct$) 9: end for 10: end for 11: return (XSet, CSet) **GenTrans**(DB, EDB, f_r , H, Y, t_1 , t_2 , w_1 , w_2 , $attr^*_{t_1}$, $attr^*_{t_2}$, stag) 1: t ← TSetRetrieve(TSet,stag) 2: { $(\overline{\text{ind}}_1, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]}), ..., (\overline{\text{ind}}_{T_{w_1}}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]})\}$ ← $DB_{\text{Tab}_{t_1}}^{\text{Join}}(w_1)$ 3: for $c = 1, ..., T_{w_1}$ do 4: $y \leftarrow t[c]$ 5: xjointoken $_1[c] \leftarrow H[w_1, attr^*_{t_1}, w^*_{t}] \oplus y$ 6: xjointoken $\frac{1}{2}[c] \leftarrow H[w_2, attr^*_{t_2}, w^*_t] \oplus y$ 7: end for 8: Note that w_t^* is determined by c and $attr_{t_1}^*$ using $DB_{Tab_{t_1}}^{Join}(w_1)$. 9: **for** $c = T_{w_1} + 1, ..., T_{\text{max}}$ **do** 10: $\text{xjointoken}_1[c] \leftarrow Y[w_1, w_1, c] \oplus f_r(\text{attr}_{t_1}^*)$ 11: $\text{xjointoken}_2[c] \leftarrow Y[w_1, w_2, c] \oplus f_r(\text{attr}_{t_2}^{*})$ 12: end for 13: ResCT \leftarrow ServerSearch(EDB, $(t_1, t_2, \text{stag}, \text{xjointoken}_1, \text{xjointoken}_2)$) 14: $q \leftarrow (t_1, t_2, w_1, w_2, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*, \text{attr}_{t_2}^*)$ 15: ResInd ← $DB(q)$ 16: return ((stag, xjointoken₁, xjointoken₂), ResCT, ResInd)

Algorithm 7 Game G_5 and Game G_6

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Initialize(DB, t_1, t_2, w_1, w_2, \text{attr}^*_{t_1}, \text{attr}^*_{t_2})
   1: {\{\textsf{Tab}_i,\textsf{W}_i\}_{i \in [N]} ← DB
  2: for i = 1 to N do
   3: for w \in W_i and attr^* \in \text{Tab}_i and w^* \in \text{DB} do
   4: H[w, attr^*, w^*] \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}5: end for
  6: end for
  7: for i = 1 to N do
  8: T_i ← empty array
  9: for w \in W_i do
 10: for c = 1, \ldots, T_w do
 11: for t \in [T] do
 12: \boldsymbol{u}\xrightarrow{\$} {0, 1}<sup>\lambda</sup>
 13: \mathsf{T}_i[w||t][c] \leftarrow y14: end for
 15: end for
 16: end for
 17: end for
 18: (TSet, STags) \leftarrow \mathcal{S}_T(\mathcal{L}_T(DB, t_1, w_1, attr^*_{t_1}), T_{t_1}[w_1 || attr^*_{t_1}])19: (XSet, CSet) \leftarrow XSet\&CSetStep(DB, H)20: EDB ← (TSet, XSet, CSet)
21: for i = 1 to Q do
 22: \text{Tr}[i] \leftarrow \text{GenTrans}(\text{DB}, \text{EDB}, H, t_1[i], t_2[i], w_1[i], w_2[i], \text{attr}_{t_1}^*[i],\text{attr}^*_{\mathbf{t}_2}[i], \text{STags}[i])23: end for
24: return (EDB, Tr)
XSet&CSetSetup(DB, H)
   1: {\{\textsf{Tab}_i,\textsf{W}_i\}_{i \in [N]} ← DB
  2: for i = 1 to N do
  3: XSet[i] \leftarrow \emptyset, CSet[i] \leftarrow empty \text{ multi-map}4: for w \in W_i and (\text{ind}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^* \}_{t \in [T]}) \in DB_{\text{Tab}_i}^{\text{Join}}(w) do
   5: if \exists j : (\mathbf{w}_1[j] = w \lor \mathbf{w}_2[j] = w) \land w_t^* \in {\text{val}}^*:
       (\text{ind}_1, \text{attr}^*_{t_1}[j], \text{val}^*) ∈ Tab<sub>t<sub>1</sub>[j]</sub> ∧ (\text{ind}_2, \text{attr}^*_{t_2}[j], \text{val}^*) ∈
      \textsf{Tab}_{\mathsf{t}_2[\,j\,]}\land(\textsf{ind}_1,\textbf{w}_1[\,j\,])\in\textsf{Tab}_{\mathsf{t}_1[\,j\,]}\land(\textsf{ind}_2,\textbf{w}_2[\,j\,])\in\textsf{Tab}_{\mathsf{t}_2[\,j\,]}\}then
   6: XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{H[w, attr_t^*, w_t^*]\}7: K_{\text{enc},w} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}8: ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, 0^{\lambda})9: CSet[i] ← CSet[i].Put(H[w, attr_t^*, w_t^*], ct)
                                                                                                                 10: else
                                                                                                                  11: h \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}12: XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{h\}13: K_{\text{enc. }w} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}14: ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, 0^{\lambda})15: CSet[i] \leftarrow CSet[i].Put(h, ct)16: end if
                                                                                                                 17: end for
                                                                                                                 18: end for
                                                                                                                 19: return (XSet, CSet)
                                                                                                                GenTrans(DB, EDB, H, t_1, t_2, w_1, w_2, attr^*_{t_1}, attr^*_{t_2}, stag, i)
                                                                                                                   1: t ← TSetRetrieve(TSet,stag)
                                                                                                                   2: \{(\overline{\text{ind}}_1, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]}), \ldots, (\overline{\text{ind}}_{T_{w_1}}, \{attr_t^*, w_t^*\}_{t \in [T]})\} ←
                                                                                                                       DB_{\text{Tab}_{t_1}}^{\text{Join}}(w_1)3: Get (\bar{w}_1^*,\bar{w}_2^*,\ldots,\bar{w}_{T_{w_1}}^*) according to \mathsf{DB}_{\mathsf{Tab}_{t_1}}^{\mathsf{Join}}(w_1) and \mathit{attr}_{t_1}^*4: for c = 1, ..., T_{w_1} do
                                                                                                                   5: y \leftarrow t[c]6: if \bar{w}_c^* \in \{\text{val}^* : (\text{ind}_1, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*, \text{val}^*) \in \text{Tab}_{t_1} \wedge(\mathrm{ind}_{2}, \mathit{attr}_{t_2}^*, \mathrm{val}^*) ∈ Tab<sub>2</sub> ∧ (\mathrm{ind}_1, w_1) ∈ Tab<sub>t_1</sub> ∧ (\mathrm{ind}_2, w_2) ∈
                                                                                                                       Tab_{t_2}} then
                                                                                                                   7: xjointoken_1[c] \leftarrow H[w_1, attr^*_{t_1}, \bar{w}^*_c] \oplus y8: x jointoken_2[c] \leftarrow H[w_2, attr^*_{t_2}, \bar{w}^*_c] \oplus y9: else if \exists j \neq i : \overline{w}_c^* \in \{ val^* : (ind, w_1[j]) \in \textsf{Tab}_{t_1[j]} \land(\text{ind}, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*[j], \text{val}^*) \in \text{Tab}_{t_1[j]} \cap \{\text{val}^* : (\text{ind}, w_1) \in \text{Tab}_{t_1} \land ...(\text{ind}, \textit{attr}_{t_1}^*, \text{val}^*) \in \text{Tab}_{t_1}\}\) then
                                                                                                                  10: x iontoken [c] \leftarrow H[w_1, attr^*_{t_1}, \bar{w}^*_{c}] \oplus y11: xjointoken2
[] ←  [2,  ∗
2
,¯
∗

] ⊕ 
                                                                                                                 12: end if
                                                                                                                 13: end for
                                                                                                                 14: for c = T_{w_1} + 1, ..., T_{\text{max}} do
                                                                                                                  15: xjointoken<sub>1</sub>[c] \xi {0, 1}<sup>λ</sup>
                                                                                                                  16: xjointoken<sub>2</sub>[c] \xi {0, 1}<sup>λ</sup>
                                                                                                                 17: end for
                                                                                                                  18: \text{ResCT} \leftarrow \text{ServerSearch}(\text{EDB}, (t_1, t_2, \text{stag}, \text{xjointoken}_1, \text{xjointoken}_2))19: q \leftarrow (t_1, t_2, w_1, w_2, \text{attr}_{t_1}^*, \text{attr}_{t_2}^*)20: ResInd ← DB(q)21: return ((stag, xjointoken<sub>1</sub>, xjointoken<sub>2</sub>), ResCT, ResInd)
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Algorithm 8 Simulator Initialize($\mathcal{L}_{JXT+}(DB, q)$, $\mathcal{L}_{T}(DB, t_1, w_1, attr^*_{t_1}))$ 1: $(n, RP, EP_1, EP_2, SP_1, JD) \leftarrow \mathcal{L}_{|XT+}(DB, q)$ 2: for $w^* \in \bigcup_{i \in [Q]} JD[i]$ do 3: $H[EP_1[i], w^*] \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 4: end for 5: for $w \in \overline{EP}_2$ and $w^* \in \bigcup_{i \in [Q]} JD[i]$ do 6: $H[w, w^*] \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 7: end for 8: for $i = 1$ to N do 9: T_i ← empty array 10: for $w \in W_i$ do 11: **for** $c = 1, \ldots, T_w$ do 12: for $t \in [T]$ do 13: $y \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{\lambda}$ 14: $\mathsf{T}_i[w||t][c] \leftarrow y$ 15: end for 16: end for 17: end for 18: end for 19: (TSet, STags) $\leftarrow \mathcal{S}_{T}(\mathcal{L}_{T}(\text{DB}, t_1, w_1, \text{attr}^*_{t_1}), T_{t_1}[\text{w}_1 || \text{attr}^*_{t_1}])$ 20: for $i = 1$ to N do 21: $XSet[i] \leftarrow \emptyset, X[i] \leftarrow 0, CSet[i] \leftarrow empty \text{ multi-map}$ 22: end for 23: **for** $w \in \overline{\text{EP}}_2$ and $w^* \in \bigcup_{i \in [Q]: \overline{\text{EP}}_2[i] = w} \overline{\text{RP}}[i]$ do 24: $XSet[t_2[i]] \leftarrow XSet[t_2[i]] \cup \{H[w, w^*]\}$ 25: $X[t_2[i]] \leftarrow X[t_2[i]] + 1$ 26: $K_{\text{enc},w} \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ 27: $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, 0^{\lambda})$ 28: $\text{CSet}[\mathbf{t}_2[i]] \leftarrow \text{CSet}[\mathbf{t}_2[i]]$. $\text{Put}(H[w, w^*], ct)$ 29: end for 30: **for** $w \in \text{EP}_1$ and $w^* \in \bigcup_{i \in [Q]: \text{EP}_1[i] = w} \overline{\text{RP}}[i]$ **do** 31: $XSet[t_1[i]] \leftarrow XSet[t_1[i]] \cup \{H[w, w^*]\}$ 32: $X[t_1[i]] \leftarrow X[t_1[i]] + 1$ 33: $K_{\text{enc},w} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ 34: $ct \leftarrow \text{Enc}(K_{\text{enc},w}, 0^{\lambda})$ 35: $\text{CSet}[\mathbf{t}_1[i]] \leftarrow \text{CSet}[\mathbf{t}_1[i]].$ Put $(H[w, w^*], ct)$ 36: end for 37: for $i = 1$ to N do

38: **for** $j = X[i] + 1, \ldots, n[i] \cdot T$ do $39:$ $\xrightarrow{\$}$ {0, 1}^{λ} 40: $XSet[i] \leftarrow XSet[i] \cup \{h\}$ 41: $K_{\text{enc},w} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^{\lambda}$ 42: ct ← Enc($K_{\text{enc},w}$, 0^{λ}) 43: $\text{CSet}[i] \leftarrow \text{CSet}[i].\text{Put}(h, ct)$ 44: end for 45: end for 46: $EDB \leftarrow (TSet, XSet, CSet)$ 47: for $i = 1$ to Q do 48: Tr[*i*] ← GenTrans(EDB, *H*, t₁[*i*], t₂[*i*], w₁[*i*], w₂[*i*], attr_{t₁}[*i*], $\text{attr}_{t_2}^*[i]$, STags $[i]$, i , RP, SP₁, JD) 49: end for 50: return (EDB, Tr) **GenTrans**(EDB, H, t_1 , t_2 , w_1 , w_2 , $attr_{t_1}^*$, $attr_{t_2}^*$, stag, *i*, RP, SP₁, JD) 1: t ← TSetRetrieve(TSet, stag) 2: $R \leftarrow \overline{\text{RP}}[i] \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{Q} \text{JD}[j] \cap \text{JD}[i]$ 3: $(\bar{w}_1^*, \bar{w}_2^*, \ldots, \bar{w}_{|R|}^*)$ ← R, where $|R| \le \text{SP}[i]$ 4: $\overline{w}_k^* \leftarrow \perp \text{ for } k = |R| + 1, \ldots, \text{SP}[i]$ 5: for $c = 1, \ldots, SP[i]$ do 6: $y \leftarrow t[c]$ 7: if $\bar{w}_c^* \neq \perp$ then 8: xjointoken₁ $[c] \leftarrow H[w_1 || \text{attr}_{t_1}^*, \bar{w}_c^*] \oplus y$ 9: xjointoken $_2[c] \leftarrow H[w_2 || \textit{attr}_{t_2}^*, \bar{w}_c^*] \oplus y$ 10: else 11: x xjointoken₁[c] ξ {0, 1}^λ 12: x jointoken₂[c] ξ {0, 1}^λ 13: end if 14: end for 15: **for** $c = \text{SP}[i] + 1, ..., T_{\text{max}}$ do 16: xjointoken₁ [c] ξ {0, 1}^λ 17: **xjointoken**₂[c] ξ {0, 1}^λ 18: end for 19: ResCT \leftarrow ServerSearch(EDB, $(t_1, t_2, \text{stag}, \text{xjointoken}_1, \text{xjointoken}_2)$) 20: ResInd ← RP[i] 21: return ((stag, xjointoken₁, xjointoken₂), ResCT, ResInd)