Private Information Retrieval: Techniques and Applications

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Message from the Guest Editors

Private information retrieval (PIR) refers to the scenario where a user wishes to download content from an untrusted (and possibly distributed) database without revealing which records he or she is interested in. PIR dates back to the mid-1990s and the literature on the topic is vast. However, in the digital age, with the surge of distributed information systems, strong privacy concerns have arisen. This has spurred a new wave of research on PIR, which is now a very active research area within the information theory and computer science communities. Despite many recent advances in the area, important research problems still remain open. For example, the fundamental limits of PIR are still unknown in several important scenarios, and several practical aspects of PIR remain to be solved, so that it leaves the realm of research and becomes a reality in the real world.

This Special Issue invites submissions of high-quality original technical and survey papers in this very vibrant area, addressing both theoretical and practical aspects of PIR, hopefully inspiring researchers to identify practical use cases.

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Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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