Graphene: A New Protocol for Block Propagation Using Set Reconciliation

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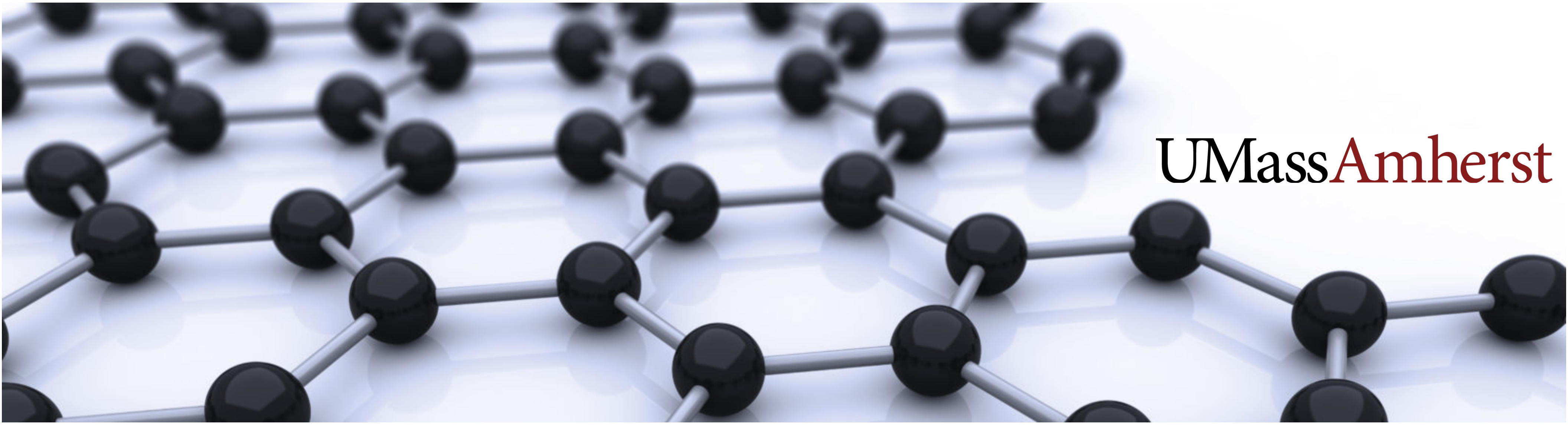

Problem Definition

- This presentation is focused on relaying information quickly to a neighbor.
  - on the fast Relay Network or the p2p network.
- It’s about avoiding sending a lot of data between peers, like so:

has block

Alice

Bob

wants block

mempool

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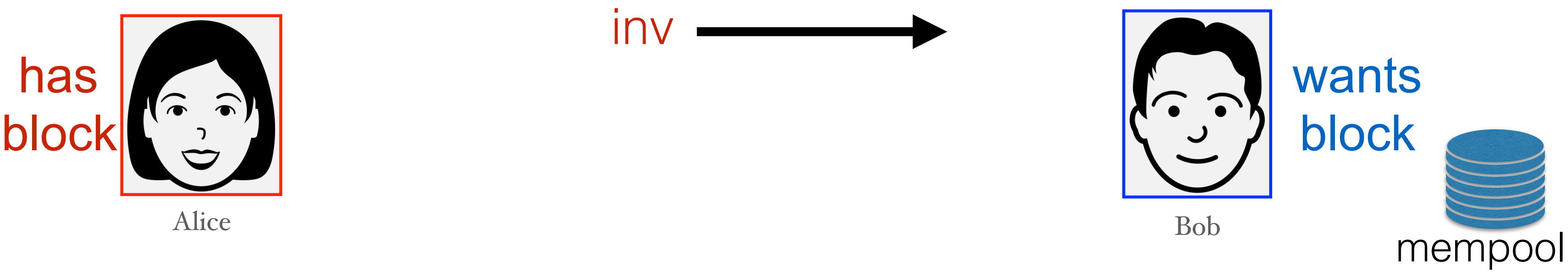

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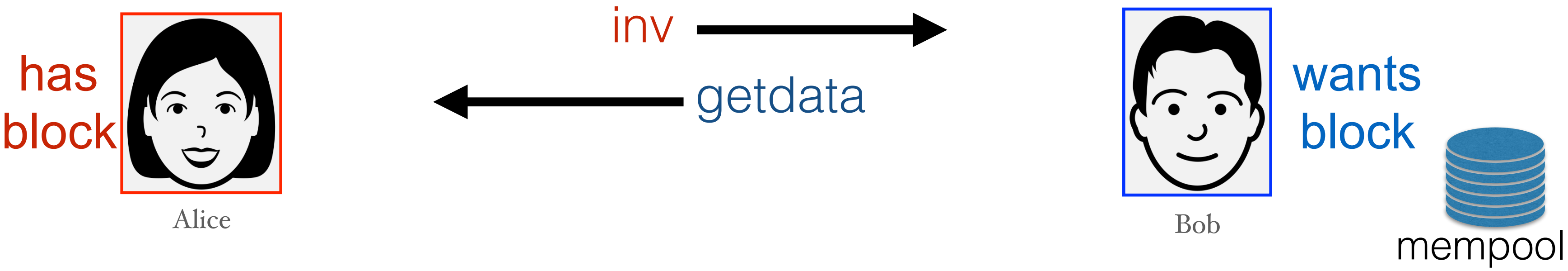

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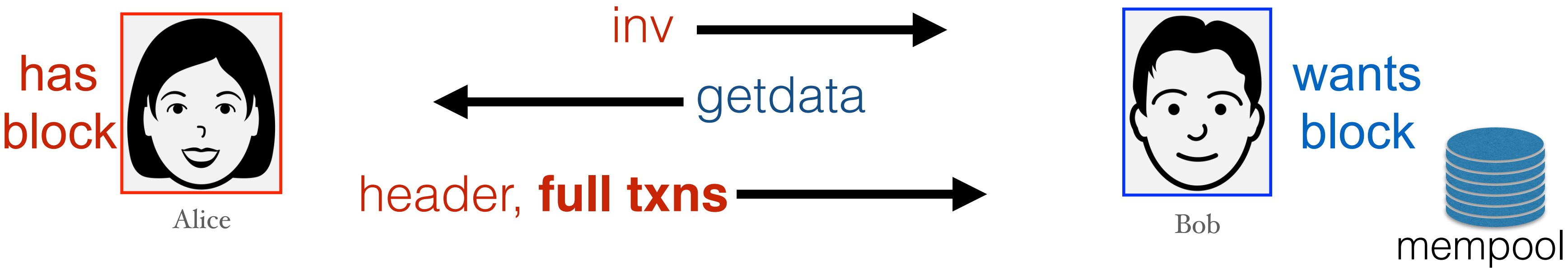

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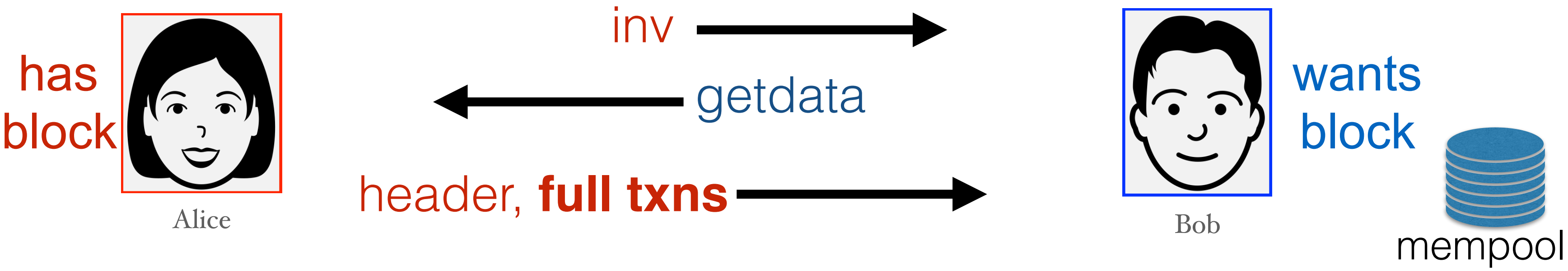

has block

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getdata

header, **full txns**

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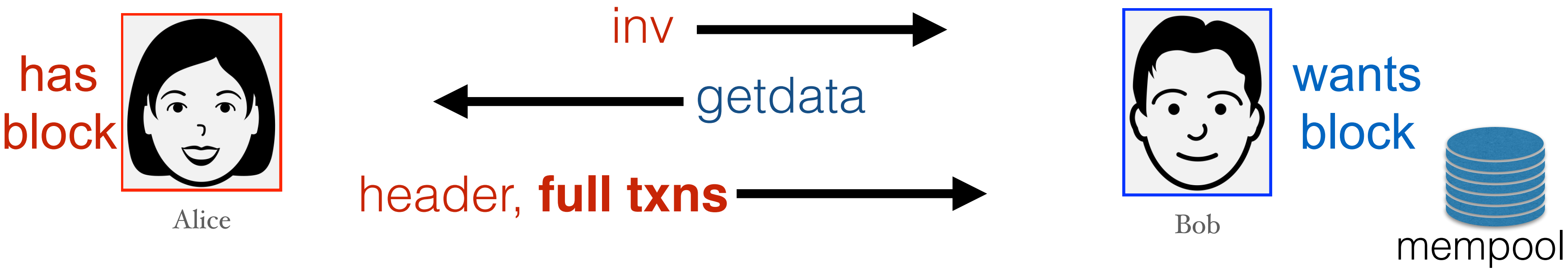


- Block announcements propagate faster when they are smaller.
- Faster propagation means less orphaning, which means mining is efficient.
- This isn't a presentation about reducing the size of the stored blockchain.

Results

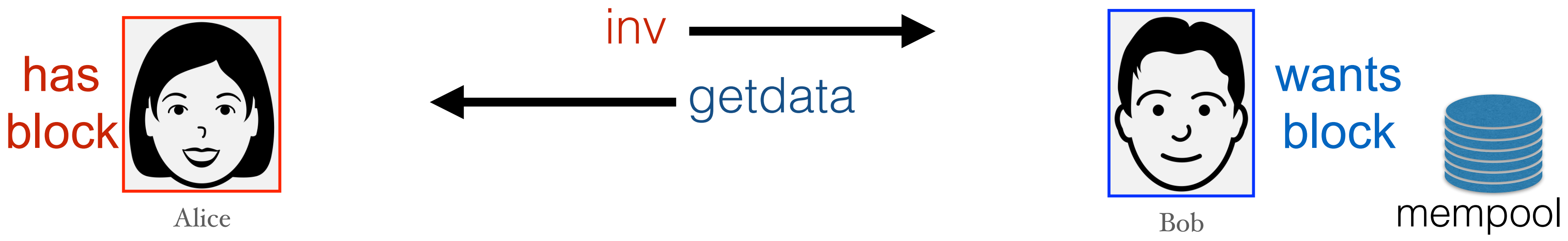
- **Graphene's block announcements are ⅒ the size of current methods.**
  - No increase in roundtrip time.
  - Not a significant use of storage or CPU.
- Combines two known tools from set reconciliation literature in a nifty way.
  - Bloom Filters and IBLTs
- Why does it work? We are optimizing Bitcoin's special case:
  - Everyone needs to know everything.
  - Blocks are comprised of transactions that everyone should have heard already.

Overview

- A series of protocols:
  - Compact Blocks
  - Xtreme Thin Blocks
  - Soot [fake]
  - IBLTs
  - Graphene

Protocol 1: Compact Blocks

BIP 152
Matt Corallo



- We don’t need to send the full transactions.
- We can send just the 2xSHA256 (32-byte) transaction IDs.
- And we only need the first 5 or 6 bytes. Odds of mistake are 1 in a trillion.

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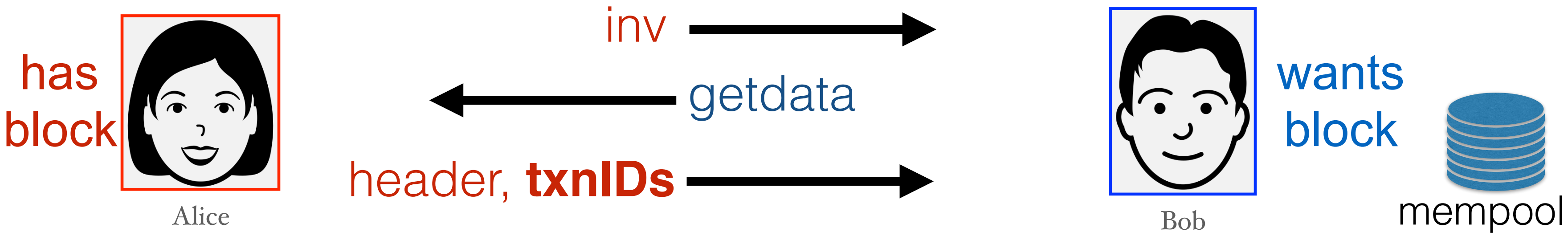

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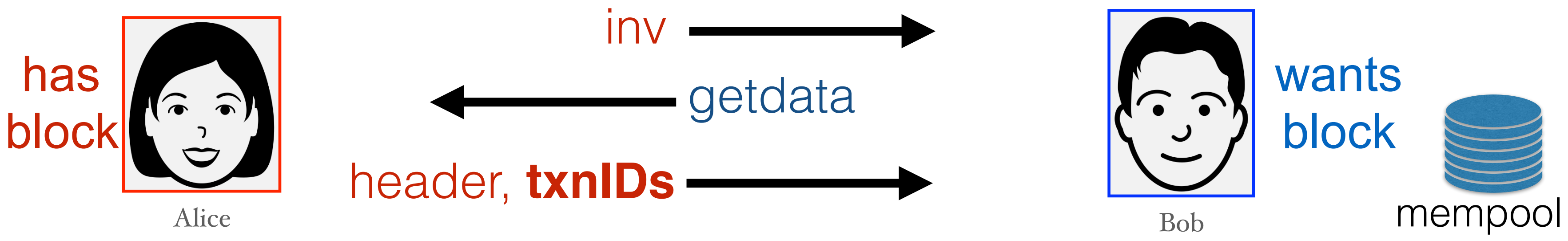

has block

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getdata

header, **txnIDs**

Bob

wants block

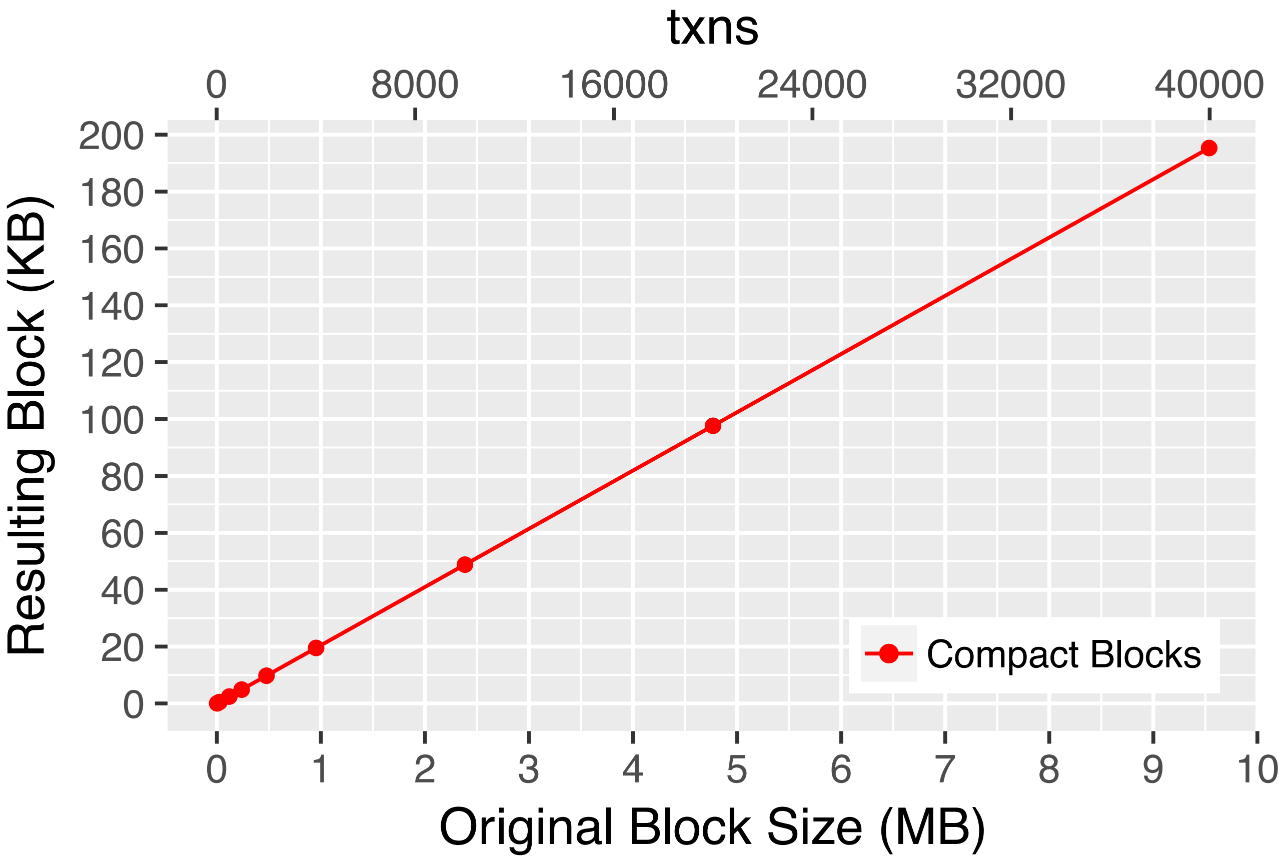
mempool

- We don’t need to send the full transactions.
- We can send just the 2xSHA256 (32-byte) transaction IDs.
- And we only need the first 5 or 6 bytes. Odds of mistake are 1 in a trillion
- Now a 1MB block with can be expressed in 80+4200*5 = 21KB
  - An 8MB block reduces to 80+4200*8*5 = 164KB

Evaluation

- Linear growth with the number of transactions included in the block.

- Size is independent of mempool.



https://bitcoincore.org/en/2016/06/07/compact-blocks-faq/

Protocol 2: Bloom Filters

- Can we do better? Yes!
- Our neighbors already have these transactions IDs.
- They are likely only missing a few.
- Alice can each express the set of transactions in the block or her mempool as a **Bloom Filter.**
    - Bob could do the same thing!
    - Bloom filters allow us to quickly check if an item is a member of a set.

Bloom Filter: Insertion

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B. Bloom: Space/Time Trade-offs in Hash Coding with Allowable Errors. Communications of the ACM 13(7), 422–426 (Jul 1970)

Bloom Filter: Insertion

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

insert: txn_1

$H_1(txn_1) = 1$

$H_2(txn_1) = 4$

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Bloom Filter: Insertion

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0	1	0	0	1	0	0

insert: *txn*$_1$
$H_1(txn_1) = 1$
$H_2(txn_1) = 4$

insert: *txn*$_2$
$H_1(txn_2) = 0$
$H_2(txn_2) = 4$

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Bloom Filters: Check

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
1	1	0	0	1	0	0

Bloom Filters: Check

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
1	1	0	0	1	0	0

Is txn1 in the set?

$H_1(\mathit{txn}_1) = 1$, $H_2(\mathit{txn}_1) = 4$

cell 1 = 1

cell 4 = 1

Yes!

True Positive

Bloom Filters: Check

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
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Yes!

True Positive

Is txn3 in the set?
$H_1(txn_3) = 1, H_2(txn_3) = 5$
cell 1 = 1
cell 5 = 0
No!

True Negative

Bloom Filters: Check

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
1	1	0	0	1	0	0

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Yes!

True Positive

Is txn3 in the set?
$H_1(txn_3) = 1$, $H_2(txn_3) = 5$
cell 1 = 1
cell 5 = 0
No!

True Negative

Is txn4 in the set?
$H_1(txn_4) = 0$, $H_2(txn_4) = 1$
cell 0 = 1
cell 1 = 1
Yes!

False Positive

Bloom Filters: Check

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
1	1	0	0	1	0	0

False Negatives are not possible.

Is txn1 in the set?
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Yes!

True Positive

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cell 5 = 0
No!

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cell 1 = 1
cell 5 = 0
No!

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Is txn4 in the set?
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cell 1 = 1
Yes!

False Positive

The False Positive Rate is tunable: More bits will lower the FPR.

Protocol 2: Xtreme Thinblocks

Peter Tschipper

- We are sending all txnIDs **and** we are sending a Bloom Filter.
- This is more data across the network than Compact Blocks.

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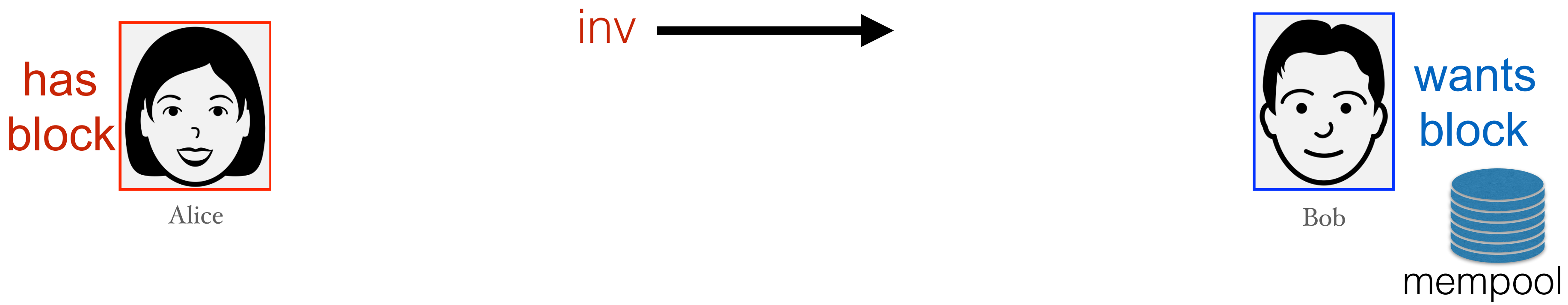

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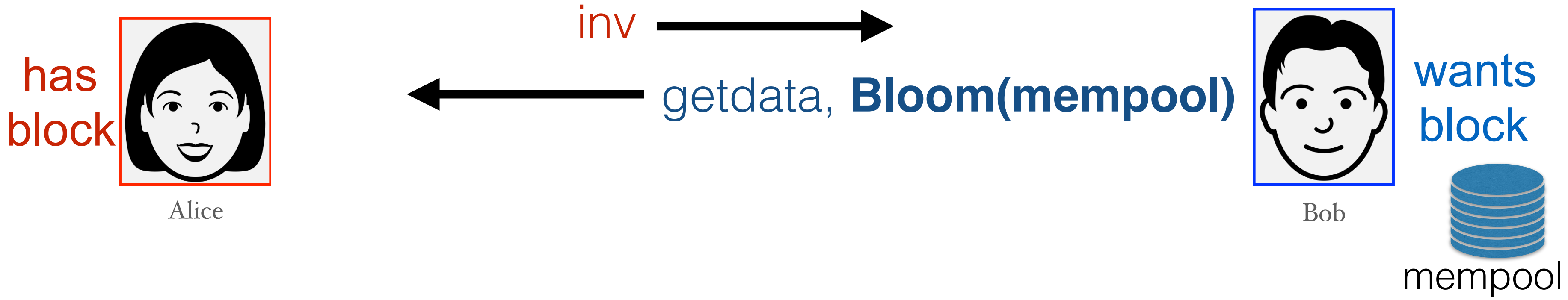

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getdata, **Bloom(mempool)**

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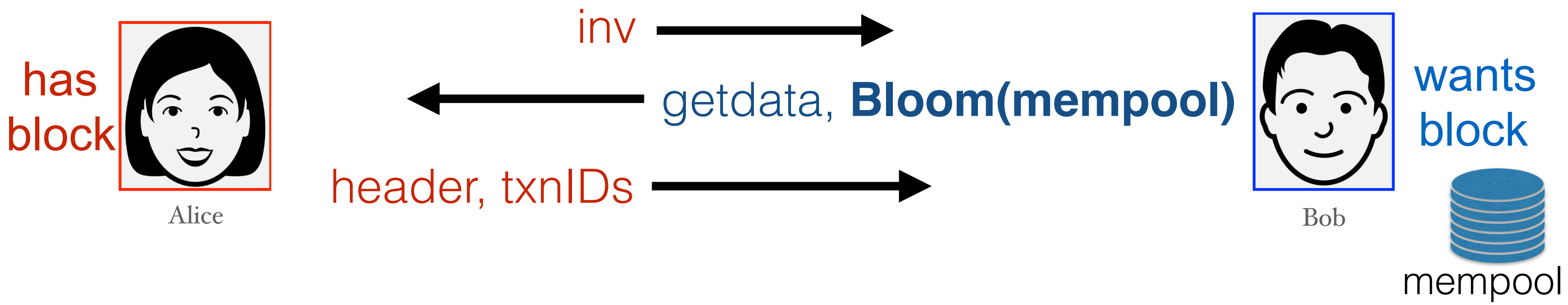

has block

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getdata, **Bloom(mempool)**

header, txnIDs

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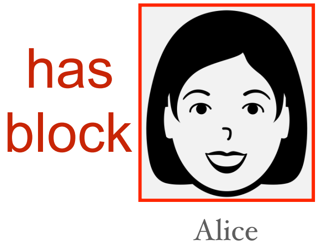
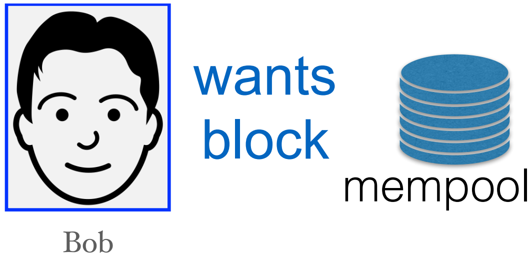
Protocol 3: Soot

- Soot is not a real protocol…
- Send INV for each TXNs in the block ahead of the block INV.
  - if they haven't already been sent or received.
- We need a low FPR for the Sender's Bloom filter.
- Can't base it on size of the block!
- Let **m** be the number of transactions in the mempool.

Protocol 3: Soot

(prioritize TXN inv's)





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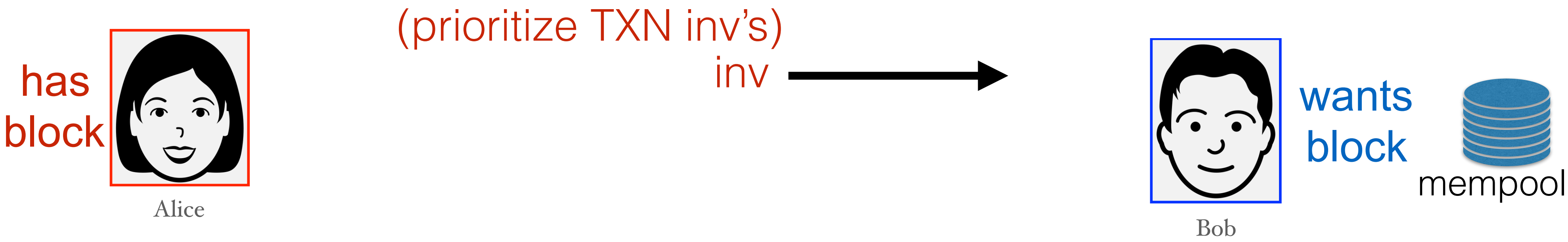

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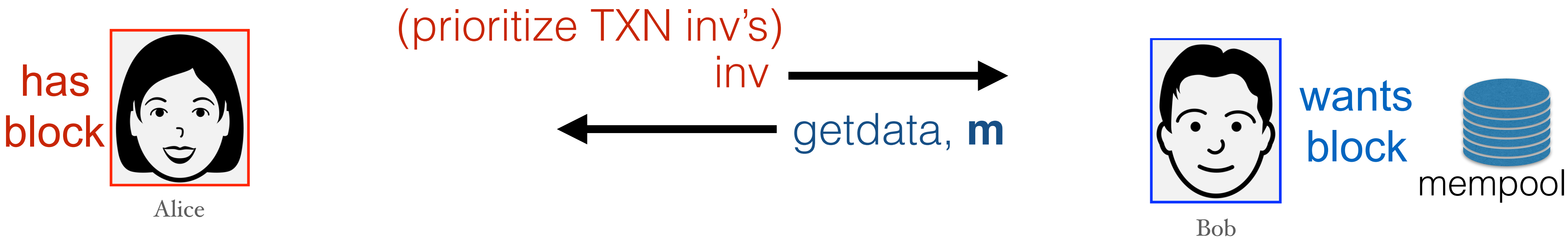

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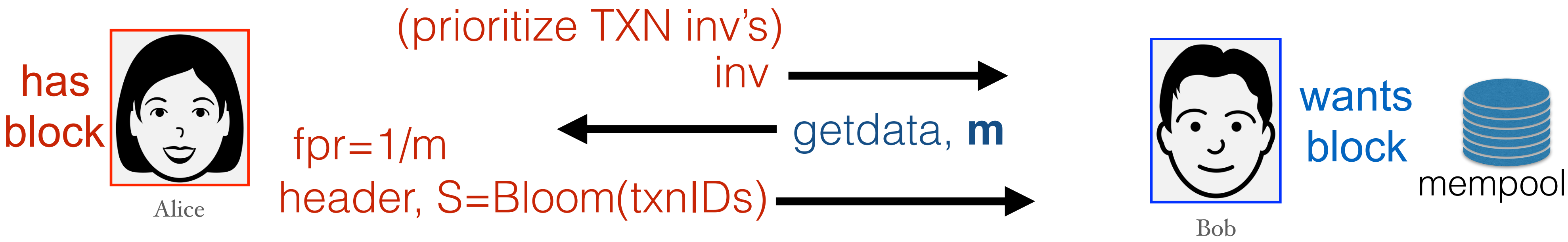

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header, S=Bloom(txnIDs)

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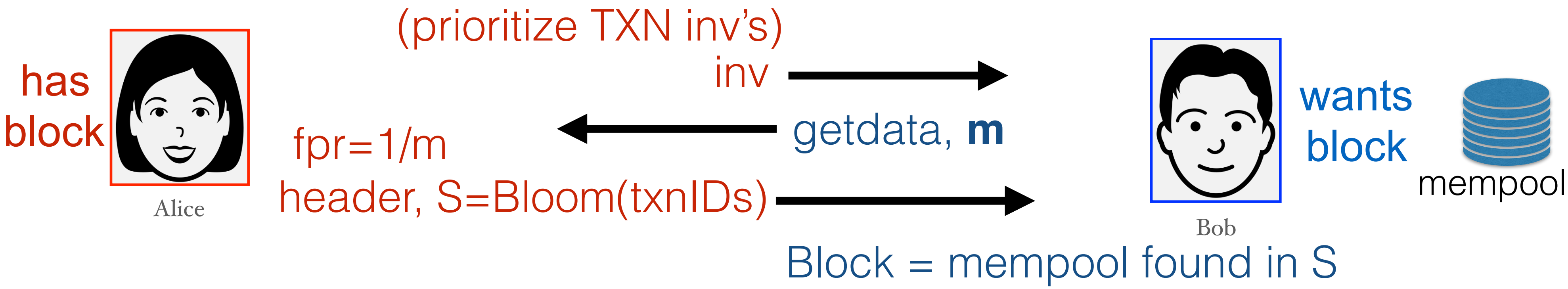

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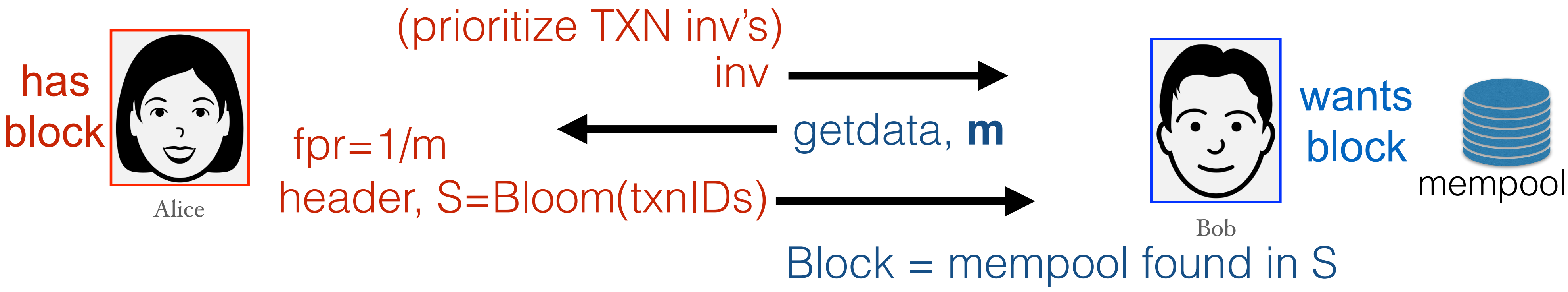

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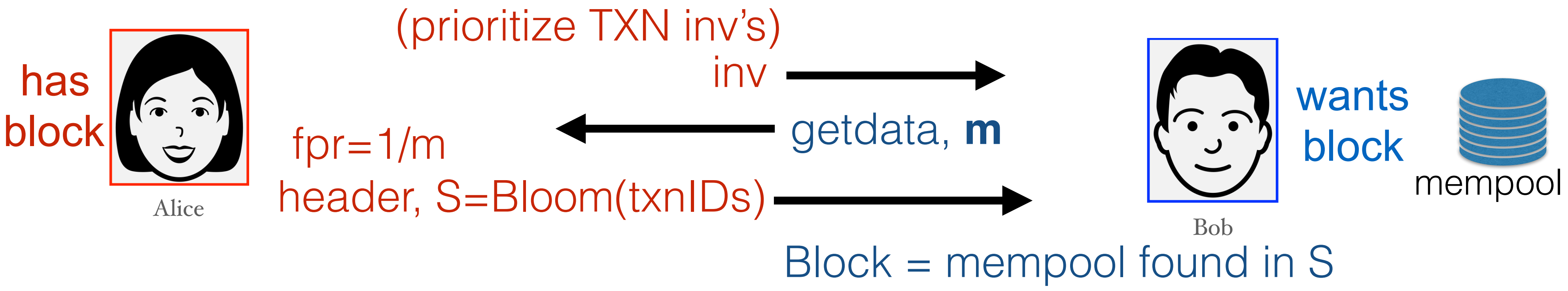

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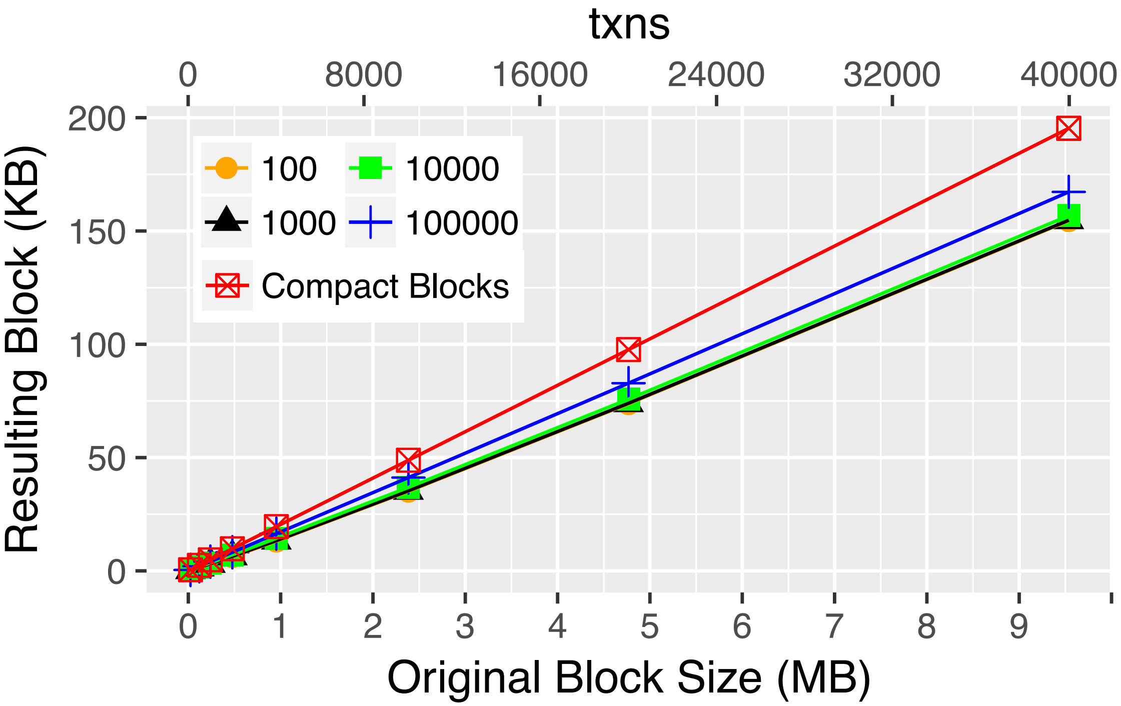
- If **FPR=1/(100m)**, once every 100 blocks, the receiver will fail to reconstruct the block.
  - In that case, fall back to Compact Blocks.

Performance of 1/(100m) Soot



Performance now depends on size of the mempool.

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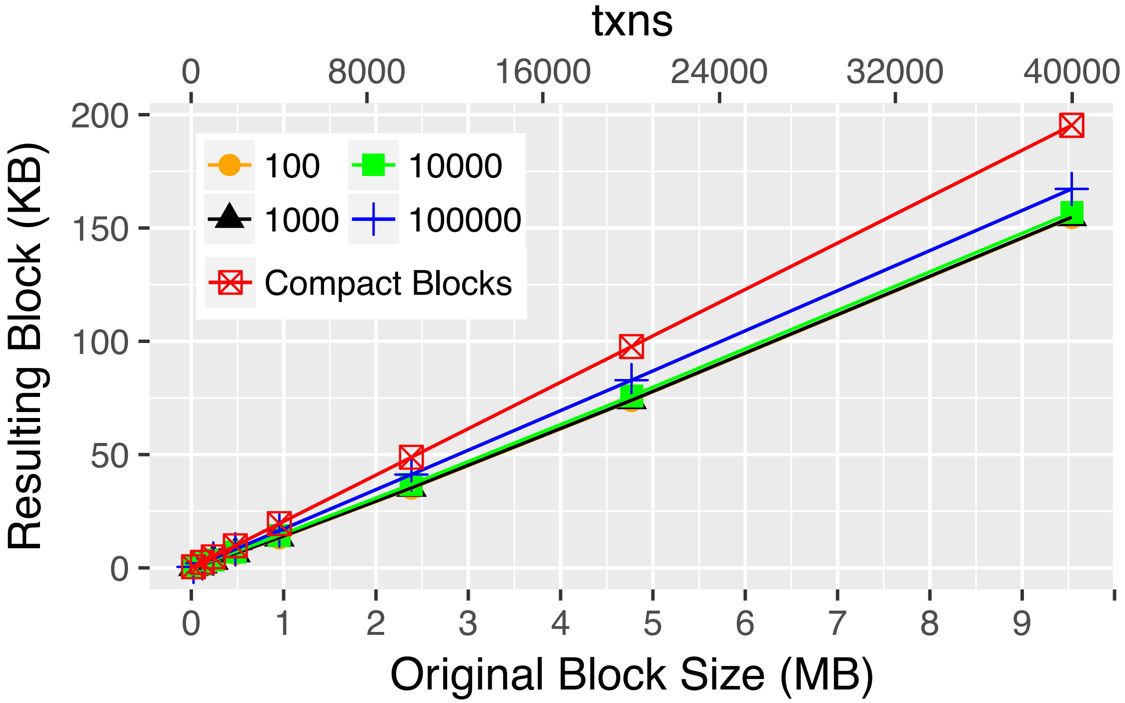

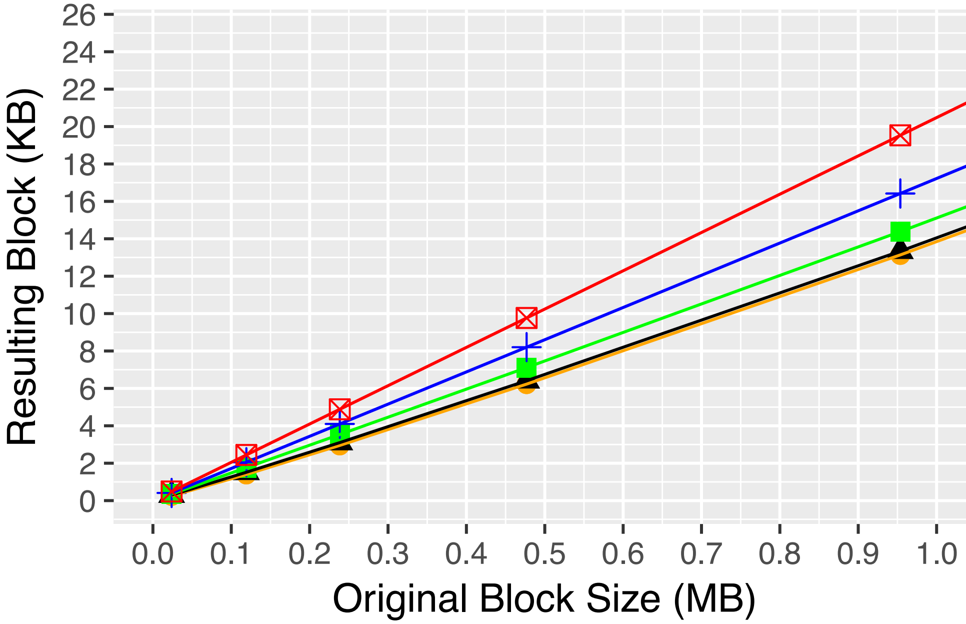

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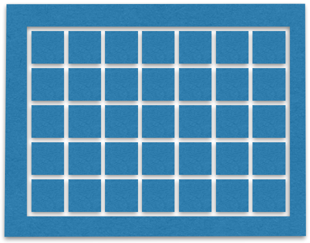
Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLTs)

- Can we do better? Yes!
- M. Goodrich and M. Mitzenmacher
  "Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables”
  Proc. Conf. on Comm., Control, and Computing. pp. 792–799, Sept 2011
- D. Eppstein, M. Goodrich, F. Uyeda, G. Varghese
  "What's the difference?: efficient set reconciliation without prior context."
  Prof. ACM SIGCOMM 2011

Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLTs)

- Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables are a generalization of Bloom Filters.
  - Instead of a bit, cells include a count and actual content.



A,B, C, **D**,
E, F, G

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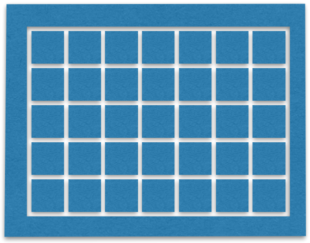

A,B, C, **D**,
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- Special IBLT feature:
  - If you have two lists **that differ by no more than ~15%**, you can compare an IBLT of each list and recover the items that are different.

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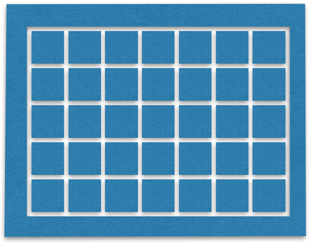

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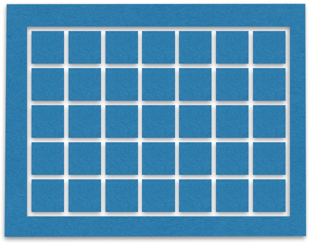

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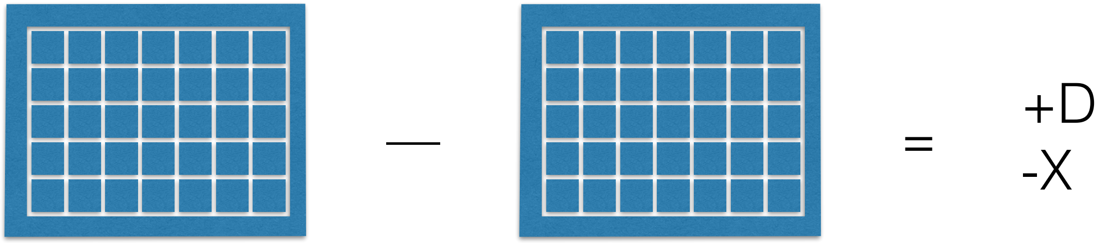


A,B, C, **D**,
E, F, G

—

A,B, C, **X**,
E, F, G

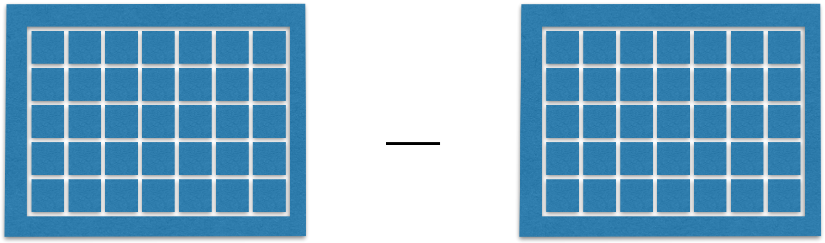
=

+D
-X

- Special IBLT feature:
  - If you have two lists **that differ by no more than ~15%**, you can compare an IBLT of each list and recover the items that are different.

Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables (IBLTs)

- Invertible Bloom Lookup Tables are a generalization of Bloom Filters.
  - Instead of a bit, cells include a count and actual content.



— =

+D
-X

A,B, C, **D**,
E, F, G

A,B, C, **X**,
E, F, G

- Special IBLT feature:
  - If you have two lists **that differ by no more than ~15%**, you can compare an IBLT of each list and recover the items that are different.
- The size of IBLTs does not depend on the original list.
- The size depends on only the expected difference between the two lists.

Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
Rosenbaum and Russell

has block

Alice

Bob

wants block

mempool

- Works very well until the receiver’s mempool size is much larger than the block.

- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver’s mempool.
  - But we don’t know this value and don’t want to waste roundtrip times failing.

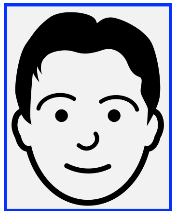
Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
Rosenbaum and Russell

has
block

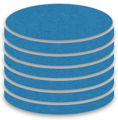
Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)



Bob

wants
block



mempool

- Works very well until the receiver's mempool size is much larger than the block.
- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver's mempool.
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Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
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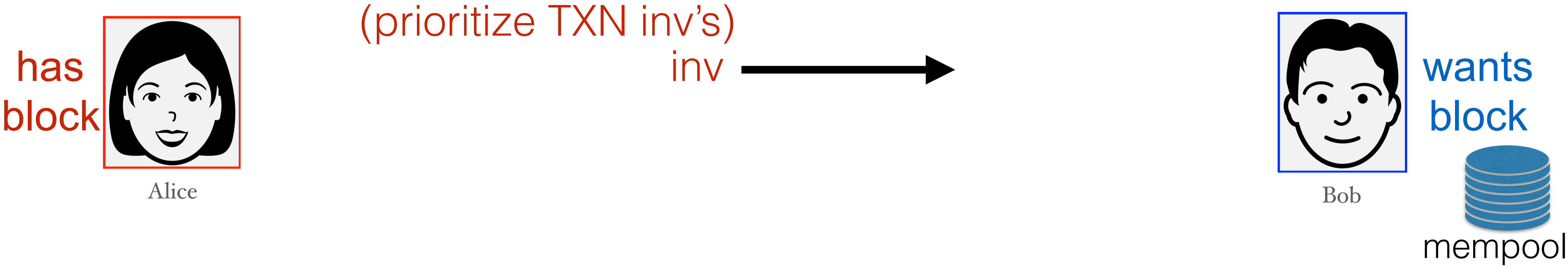

has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)
inv

Bob

wants block

mempool

- Works very well until the receiver's mempool size is much larger than the block.
- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver's mempool.
  - But we don't know this value and don't want to waste roundtrip times failing.

Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
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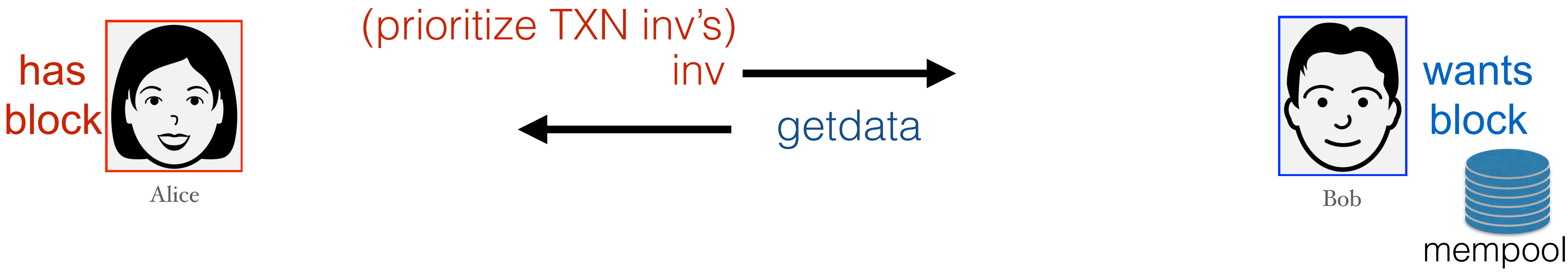


has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)
inv

getdata

Bob

wants block

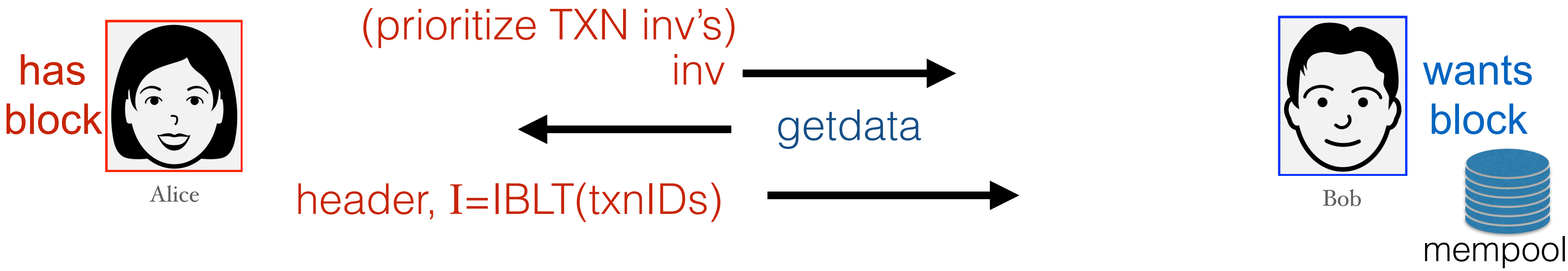
mempool

- Works very well until the receiver's mempool size is much larger than the block.

- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver's mempool.
  - But we don't know this value and don't want to waste roundtrip times failing.

Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
Rosenbaum and Russell



has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)
inv

getdata

header, I=IBLT(txnIDs)

Bob

wants block

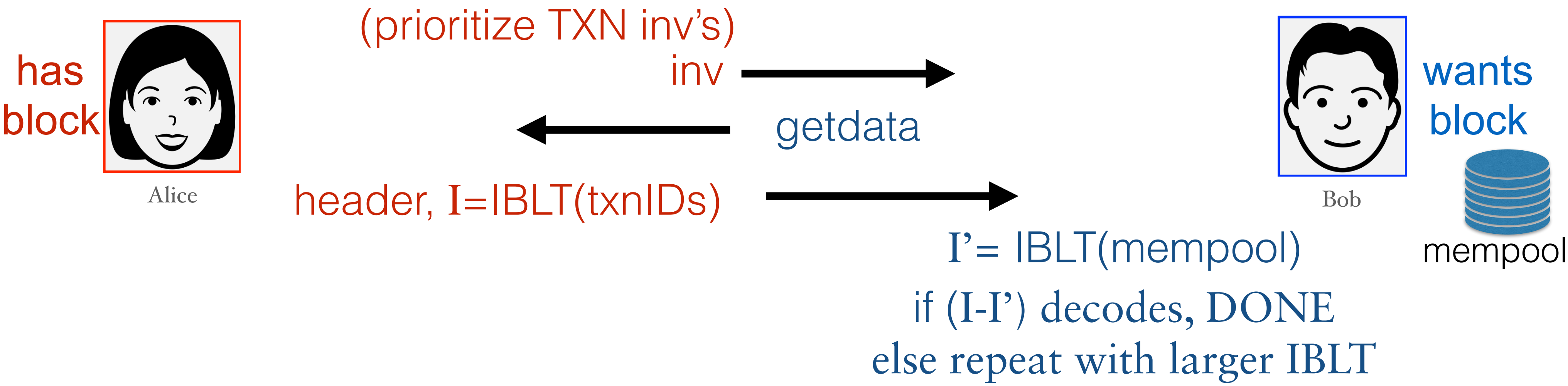
mempool

- Works very well until the receiver's mempool size is much larger than the block.

- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver's mempool.
    - But we don't know this value and don't want to waste roundtrip times failing.

Protocol 4: IBLTs

Gavin Andresen;
Rosenbaum and Russell



has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)
inv

getdata

header, I=IBLT(txnIDs)

Bob

wants block

mempool

I'= IBLT(mempool)

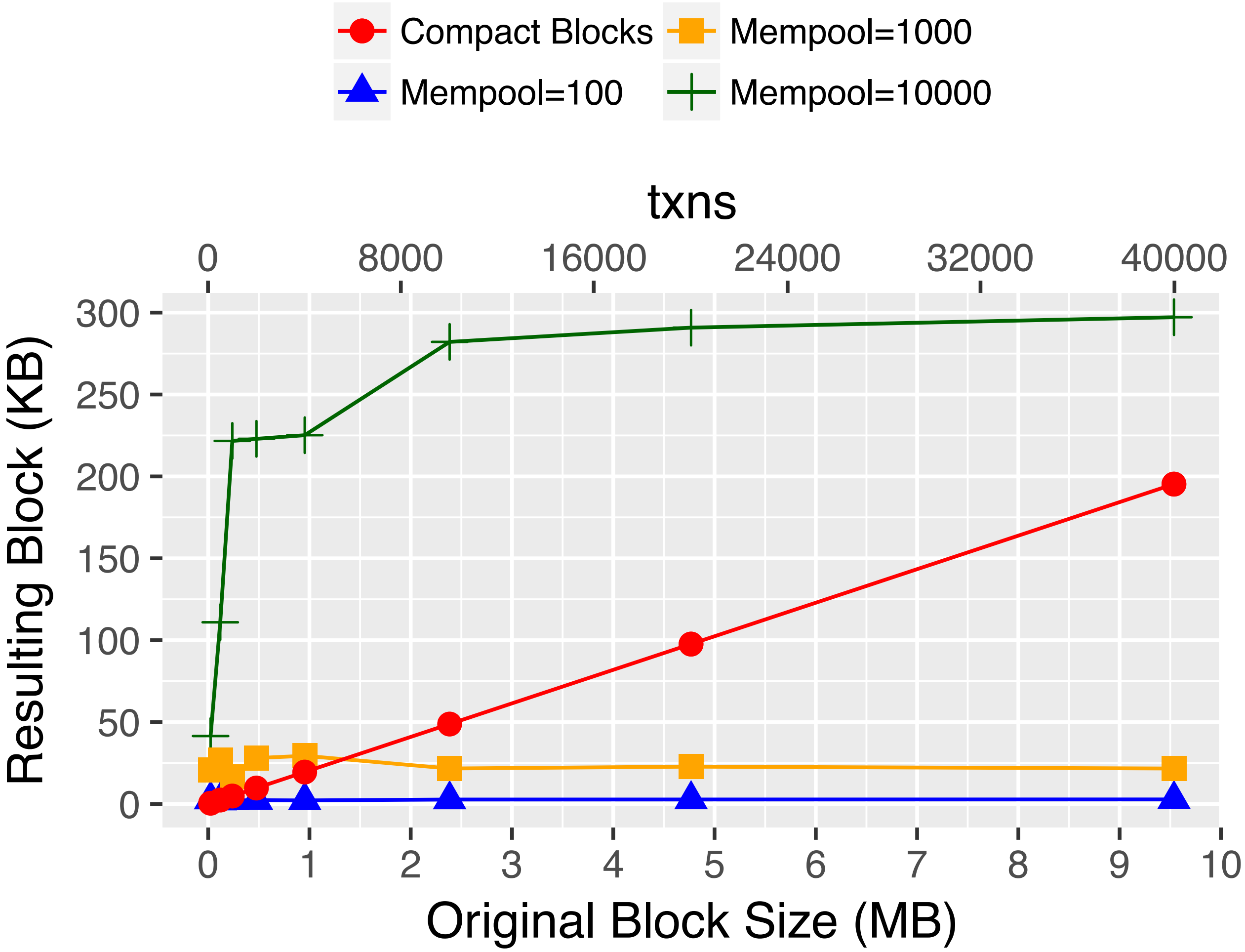
if (I-I') decodes, DONE
else repeat with larger IBLT

- Works very well until the receiver's mempool size is much larger than the block.

- The size of the IBLT will depend on the symmetric difference between the block and the receiver's mempool.
  - But we don't know this value and don't want to waste roundtrip times failing.

Performance

- Bytes are proportional to symmetric difference between block and mempool.
- Can we do better? Yes!



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Protocol 5: Graphene

- It's expensive to make Bloom Filters when symmetric difference is high.
  It's expensive to make IBLTs when symmetric difference is high.

- Solution:
  - **use a Bloom Filter to reduce the symmetric difference between block and mempool.**
  - **use the IBLT to recover from small errors in the Bloom Filter**

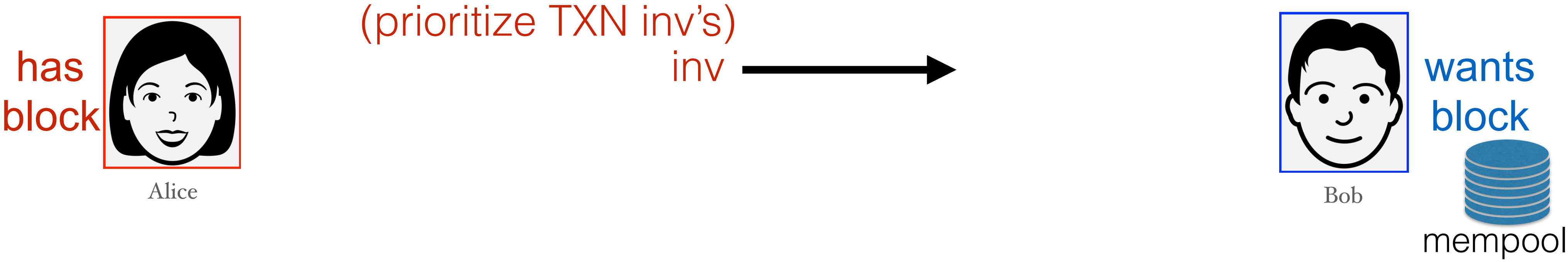
- We don't need a very low FPR for the Bloom Filter because the IBLT will help us recover.
  - Recall that the size of the IBLT is based on only the difference between two lists.

Optimally Small

- We shrink the Bloom filter to an FPR=1/m.
- We expect one false positive.
  - Make an IBLT expecting just one difference. It will be a small IBLT.
  - The output of comparing the two IBLTs will be exactly which txnID is the false positive.
- It turns out, we can parameterize the FPR and IBLT together so that the sum bytes are optimally small.
  - Roughly, given a block of **n** transactions and a mempool of **m** transactions,
    the FPR that provides the optimally small sized of IBLT and BF is

$$\text{FPR} = \frac{n}{132 \cdot (m-n)\ln^2(2)}$$

Protocol 5: Graphene


has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)

inv

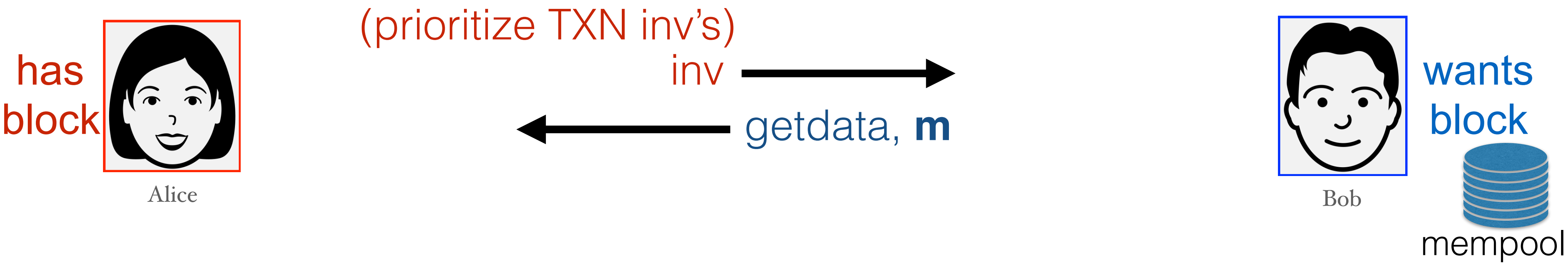
Bob

wants block

mempool

- We ensure that the IBLT decodes by setting the FPR correctly.
    - Decode failure is 1 in a 1000.

Protocol 5: Graphene



has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)

inv

getdata, **m**

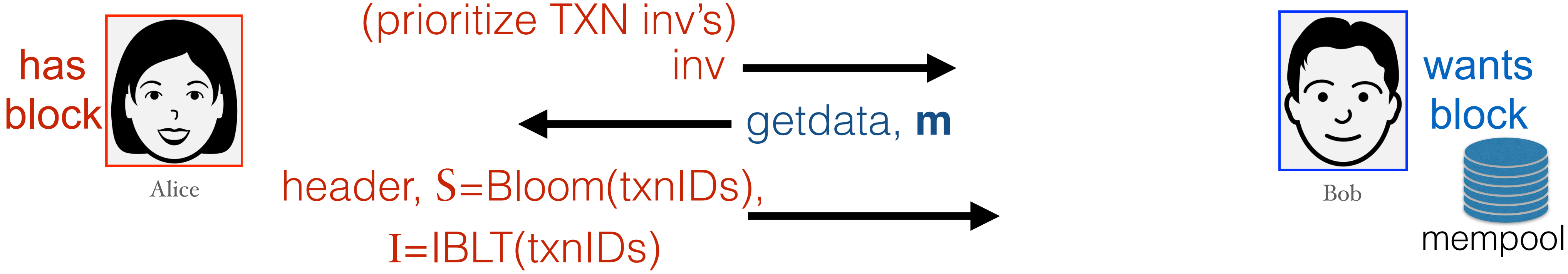
Bob

wants block

mempool

- We ensure that the IBLT decodes by setting the FPR correctly.
    - Decode failure is 1 in a 1000.

Protocol 5: Graphene



has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv’s)

inv

getdata, **m**

header, S=Bloom(txnIDs),

I=IBLT(txnIDs)

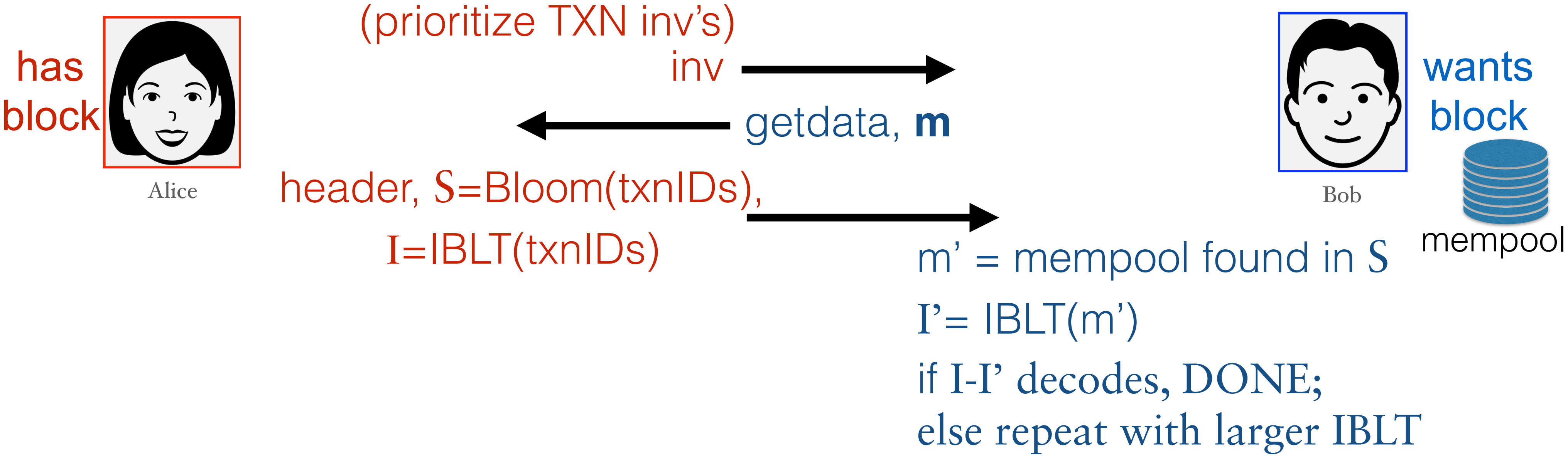
Bob

wants block

mempool

- We ensure that the IBLT decodes by setting the FPR correctly.
    - Decode failure is 1 in a 1000.

Protocol 5: Graphene



has block

Alice

(prioritize TXN inv's)

inv

getdata, **m**

header, S=Bloom(txnIDs),

I=IBLT(txnIDs)

Bob

wants block

mempool

m' = mempool found in S

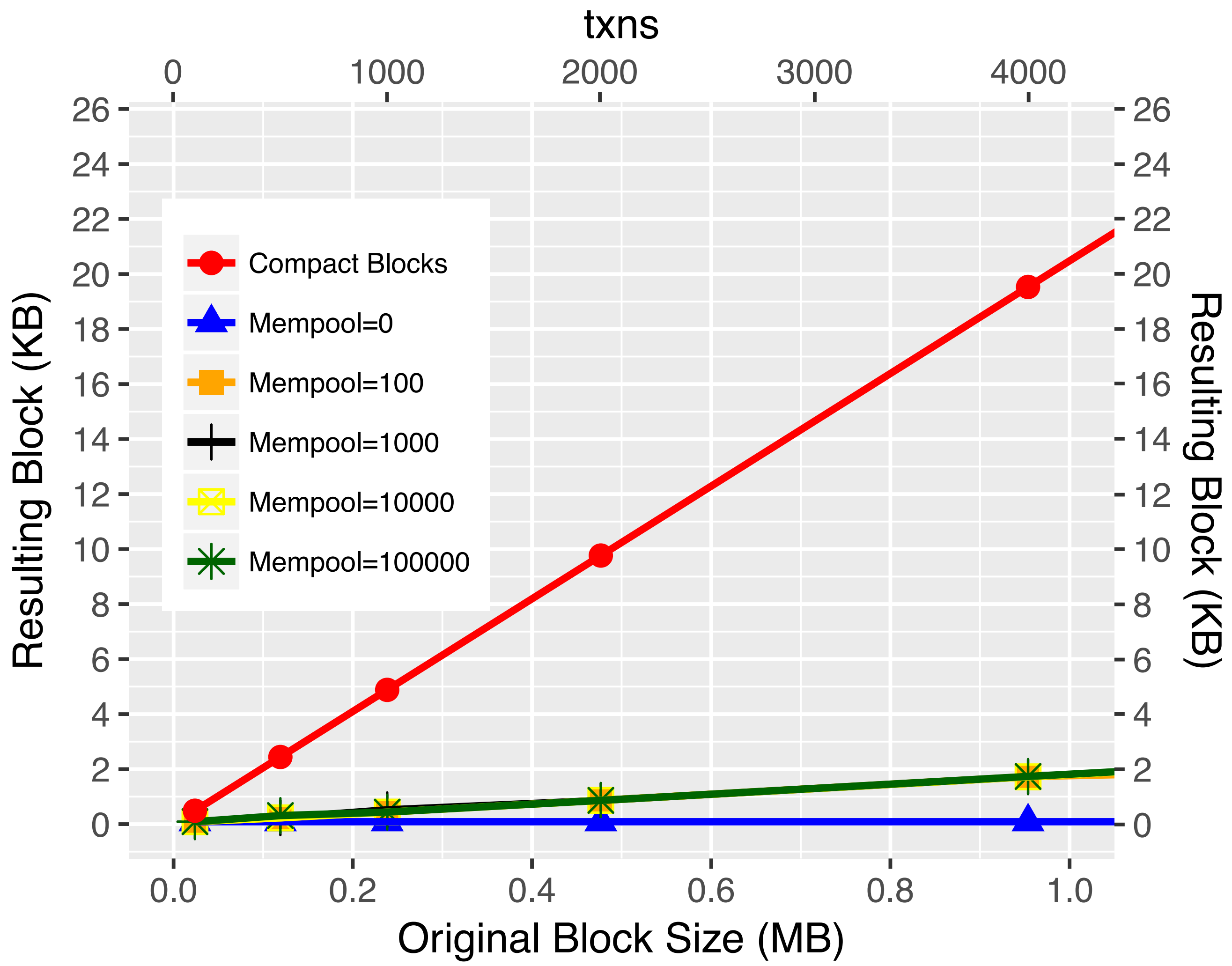
I'= IBLT(m')

if I-I' decodes, DONE;

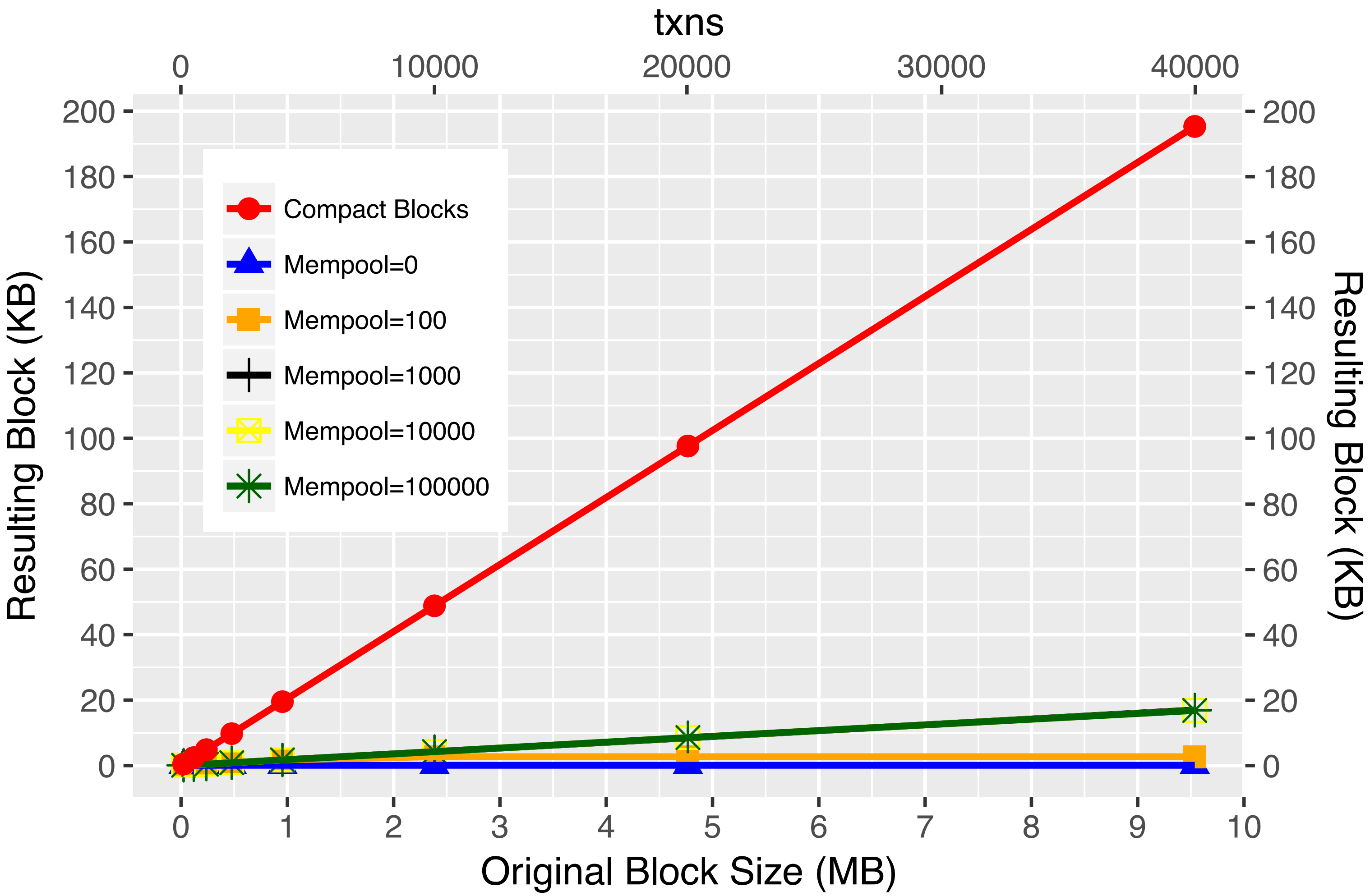
else repeat with larger IBLT

- We ensure that the IBLT decodes by setting the FPR correctly.
  - Decode failure is 1 in a 1000.

Graphene Performance

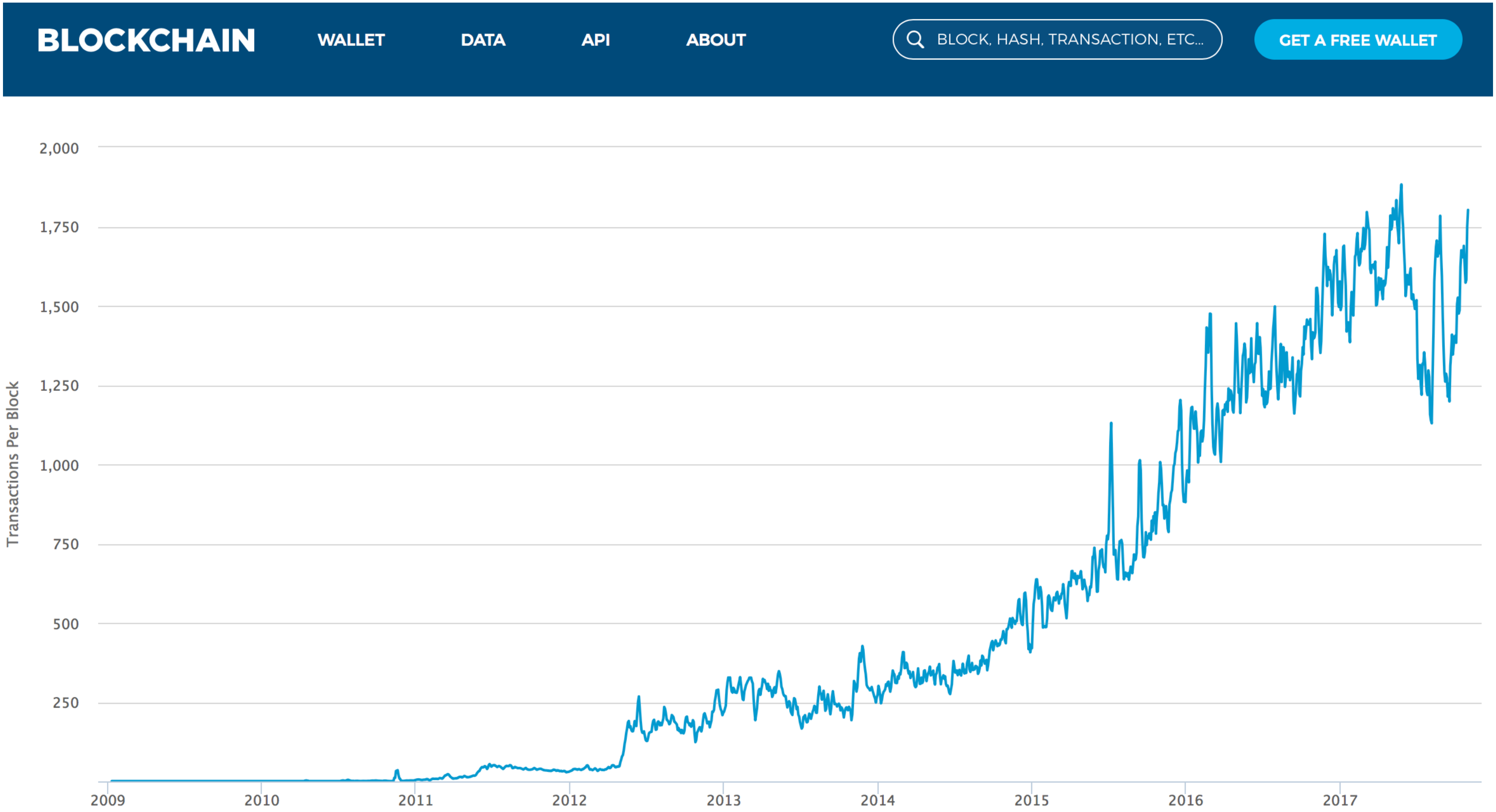


Graphene Performance

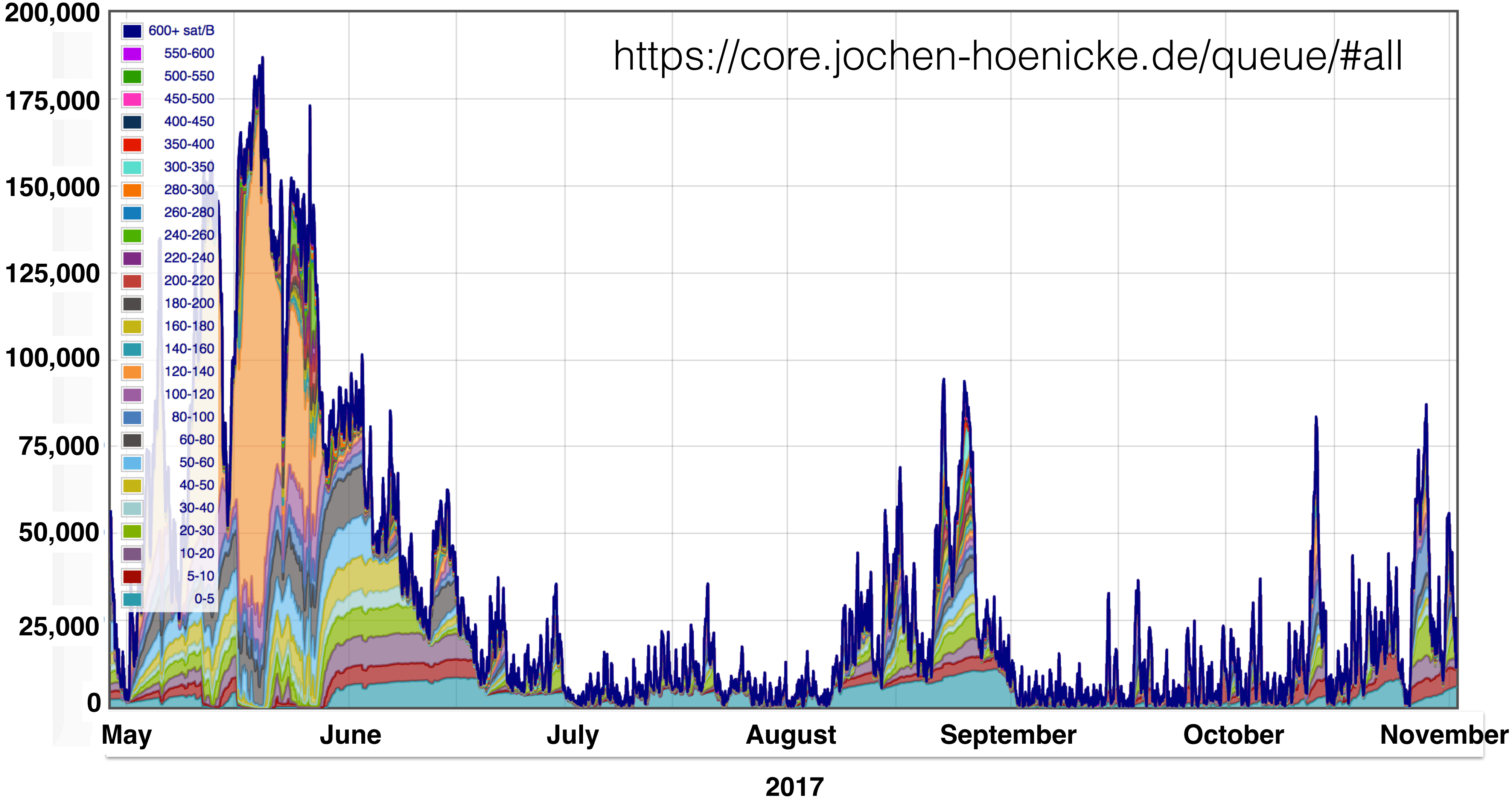


Conclusions

- **Graphene's block announcements are ⅒ the size of current methods.**
  - Fits within one IP packet
  - No increase in roundtrip time of Compact Blocks
  - Not a significant use of storage or CPU.
- Combines two known tools from set reconciliation literature in a nifty way.
  - Bloom Filters and IBLTs
- PDF: **http:forensics.cs.umass.edu/graphene**


BLOCKCHAIN
WALLET
DATA
API
ABOUT
BLOCK, HASH, TRANSACTION, ETC...
GET A FREE WALLET
Transactions Per Block
2,000
1,750
1,500
1,250
1,000
750
500
250
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017

Unconfirmed Transaction Count (Mempool)



https://core.jochen-hoenicke.de/queue/#all