# Codes for Distributed Storage: Theory and Practice 

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## Collaborators

- My advisor Prof. Vijay Kumar
- Birenjith Sasidharan, Balaji S. B (MSR constructions)
- IISc: Vinayak Ramkumar, Bhagyasree Puranik and Ganesh Kini (systems evaluation)
- Netapp: Srinivas Narayanamurthy, Syed Hussain, Siddhartha Nandi (systems evaluation)
- University of Maryland: Min Ye and Alexandar Barg (systems evaluation)


## Erasure Coding for Fault Tolerance

- Fault tolerance is achieved using erasure coding


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a stripe.

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(2) Fault Tolerance - at most $m$ storage units

## Erasure Coding for Fault Tolerance

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MDS Codes
(1) For given $(n, k)$, MDS erasure codes have the maximum-possible fault tolerance
(2) RAID 6 and Reed-Solomon codes are examples of MDS codes.

## RS Codes in Practice

|  | Storage Systems | Reed-Solomon codes |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | IBM Spectrum Scale RAID | $\operatorname{RS}(10,8)$ and RS $(11,8)$ |  |
|  | Linux RAID-6 | $\operatorname{RS}(10,8)$ | Linux |
| Google | Google File System II (Colossus) | RS $(9,6)$ |  |
| \%) | Quantcast File System | RS $(9,6)$ | quantcast |
|  | Hadoop Distributed File System 3 | RS $(9,6)$ |  |
|  | Yahoo Cloud Object Store | RS $(11,8)$ | YAHOO!. |
| 3 BACKBLAZE | Backblaze's online backup | RS $(20,17)$ |  |
|  | Facebook's f4 BLOB storage system | $\operatorname{RS}(14,10)$ |  |
| Baiddi | Baidu's Atlas Cloud Storage | $\mathrm{RS}(12,8)$ |  |

H. Dau et al, "Repairing Reed-Solomon Codes with Single and Multiple Erasures," ITA, 2017, San Diego.

## Erasure Codes and Node Failures



- A median of 50 nodes are unavailable per day.
- $98 \%$ of the failures are single chunk failures.
- A median of 180 TB of network traffic per day is generated in order to reconstruct the RS coded data corresponding to unavailable machines.
- Thus there is a strong need for erasure codes that can efficiently recover from single-node failures.

Image courtesy: Rashmi et al.: "A Solution to the Network Challenges of Data Recovery in Erasure-coded Distributed Storage Systems: A Study on the Facebook Warehouse Cluster," USENIX Hotstorage, 2013.

## Conventional Node Repair of an RS Code


$\square$ Parity Chunk

In the example $(14,10)$ RS code,
(1) the amount of data downloaded to repair 100 MB of data equals 1 GB .

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In the example $(14,10)$ RS code,
(1) the amount of data downloaded to repair 100 MB of data equals 1 GB . clearly, there is room for improvement...

## Regenerating Codes

Parameters: $\left((n, k, d),(\alpha, \beta), B, \mathbb{F}_{q}\right)$


- Data (of size $B$ ) can be recovered by connecting to any $k$ of $n$ nodes
- A failed node can be repaired by connecting to any $d$ nodes, downloading $\beta$ symbols from each node; ( $d \beta \ll$ file size $B$ )

Dimakis et al. Network Coding for Distributed Storage Systems

## Regenerating Codes

(1) Optimal File size $B$ possible by an $(n, k, d, \alpha, \beta)$ regenerating code:

$$
\begin{aligned}
B & =\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \min (\alpha,(d-i) \beta) \\
& \leq k \alpha
\end{aligned}
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\end{aligned}
$$

(2) Minimum storage regenerating (MSR) codes are a subclass of regenerating codes such that:

$$
\alpha=\frac{B}{k}, \quad \beta=\frac{\alpha}{d-k+1}
$$

(3) We restrict to Minimum-Storage-Regenerating (MSR) codes -repair-optimal MDS codes.

## MSR Codes


(1) Size of failed node's contents: 100 MB
(2) RS repair BW: 1 GB
(3) MSR Repair BW: 325 MB

Key to the Impressive, Low-Repair BW of MSR Codes

## Key to the Impressive, Low-Repair BW of MSR Codes

In a nutshell: sub-packetization... we explain...
k data chunks
Chunk $\{\square$ $\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$

$$
\mathrm{n}=\mathrm{k}+\mathrm{m}
$$



sub-packetization level





## Additional Properties Desired of an MSR Code

(1) Minimal Disk Read (Optimal Access): Read exactly what is needed to be transferred
(2) Minimize sub-packetization level $\alpha$
(3) Small field size, low-complexity implementation.
4. Two family of constructions

- Coupled Layer (CLay) MSR code $(d=n-1)$
- Small $d$ MSR code $(d=k+1, k+2, k+3)$


## 4-way Optimality of Clay code



## Putting Clay codes in perspective

- Given $(n, k, d)$ let $s=d-k+1, r=n-k$


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- Given $(n, k, d)$ let $s=d-k+1, r=n-k$

| MSR Code | Parameters | $\alpha$ | Field Size $(q)$ | All Node <br> Repair | Optimal <br> Access |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shah et al. | $(n, k, d=n-1 \geq 2 k-1)$ | $r$ | $2 r$ | No | Yes |
| Suh et al. | $(n, k, d \geq 2 k-1)$ <br> $(n, k \leq 3, d)$ | $s$ | $2 r$ | Yes | No |
| Rashmi et al. | $(n \geq 2 k-1, k, d)$ | $r$ | $n$ | Yes | No |
| Papailiopoulos et al. | $(n, k, d=n-1)$ | $r^{k}$ | non-explicit | No | No |
| Tamo et al. <br> Wang et al. | $(n, k, d=n-1)$ | $r^{k+1}$ | $\leq 4$ when $r \leq 3$, <br> else non-explicit | Yes | Yes |
| Cadambe et al. | $\left(n \geq \frac{3 k}{2}, k, d=n-1\right)$ | $O\left(k^{2}\right)$ | non-explicit | No | Yes |
| Sasidharan et al. | $(n, k, d=n-1)$ | $r^{\left.r \frac{n}{r}\right\rceil}$ | $O\left(n^{r}\right)$ | Yes | Yes |
| Goparaju et al. | $(n, k, d)$ | $s^{k\left(\frac{r}{s}\right)}$ | - | No | Yes |
| Rawat et al. | $(n, k, d)$ | $s^{\left.\frac{n}{s}\right\rceil}$ | $O\left(n^{r}\right)$ | Yes | Yes |
| Ye \& Barg (1a) | $(n, k, d)$ | $s^{n}$ | $s n$ | Yes | No |
| Ye \& Barg (1b) | $(n, k, d)$ | $s^{n-1}$ | $n+1$ | Yes | Yes |

## Literature on High-Rate, OA MSR Codes with Optimum $\alpha$

$$
\left(n, k, d=n-1, \alpha=r^{\left[\frac{n}{r}\right.}\right), q \geq r\left\lceil\frac{n}{r}\right\rceil
$$

- In May 2016, Ye \& Barg came up with MSR codes that are based on Vandermonde RS codes.
- In July 2016, Sasidharan et.al came up with MSR codes that could be constructed from any MDS code.
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- Sub-packetization bounds for optimal access MSR codes
- Shown to be $\alpha \geq r^{\frac{k}{r}}$ for $d=n-1$ by Tamo et al.
- This bound is tightened to $\alpha \geq s^{\frac{n}{s}}$ by Balaji et al.


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- Sub-packetization bounds for optimal access MSR codes
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- This bound is tightened to $\alpha \geq s^{\frac{n}{s}}$ by Balaji et al.
- We recently proved that the support of parity checks defining these constructions are forced by the optimal access, optimal sub-packetization.


## Systems Implementations of Bandwidth Efficient MDS codes

| Code | MDS | Least Repair BW | Least <br> Disk <br> Read | Least $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ | Restrictions | Implemented Distributed Systems |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Piggybacked RS (Sigcomm 2014) | $\checkmark$ | $x$ | $x$ | - | None | HDFS |
| Product Matrix <br> (FAST 2015) | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | Limited to <br> Storage Overhead > 2 | Own System |
| Butterfly Code (FAST 2016) | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $x$ | $x$ | Limited to the 2 parity nodes | HDFS, Ceph |
| HashTag Code (Trans. on Big Data 2017) | $\checkmark$ | $x$ | $x$ | - | Only systematic node repair | HDFS |
| Clay <br> (FAST 2018) | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | None! | Ceph |

- The Butterfly, HashTag codes have least disk read for systematic node repair.


## Moulding an MDS Code to Yield the Clay Code

( $n=4, k=2$ ) MDS code with optimal repair of systematic nodes, $\alpha=2$


Code symbols of [4, 2] MDS
code.

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Layer two such units


Index the layers using the red dots. symbols with yellow rectangles are paired

Uncoupled code still needs 4 symbols during recovery of single node (containing 2 symbols).

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( $n=4, k=2$ ) MDS code with optimal repair of systematic nodes, $\alpha=2$


UnCoupled Code


Coupled Code
$\left[\begin{array}{c}C \\ C^{*}\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{ll}1 & \gamma \\ \gamma & 1\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}U \\ U^{*}\end{array}\right]$

- Uncoupled code has 2 planes, where each plane corresponds to an [4, 2] MDS code
- Coupled code symbols are obtained by:
- Copying symbols with red dots
- Pair of yellow symbols $\left\{C, C^{*}\right\}$ are obtained by transformation


## Repair from single node loss


symbols that are available as part of helper information

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## Clay Code

( $n=4, k=2, d=3$ ) MSR code with all node optimal repair


Coupled Code


Uncoupled Code

- The same construction extends to any $(n, k, d)$


## Open Source: Contributions



A popular opensource distributed storage system used by CERN, Flipkart, Cisco etc

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"Us (+Vinayak) pitching Clay codes to Ceph in April 2017"

We have introduced Clay code as erasure code plugin. It is part of Ceph's Nautilus release (March 2019) as experimental feature. As part of this we also introduced support for vector codes in Ceph.

## Clay Code Summary

- The open-source implementation of Clay code that we provide is for any ( $n, k, d$ ) parameters.
- In comparison to $(20,16)$ RS code, for Workloads with large sized objects ( 64 MB ), the Clay code $(20,16,19)$ :
- resulted in repair time reduction by $3 X$.
- Improved degraded read and write performance by $27.17 \%$ and $106.68 \%$ respectively.
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- Our systems work on Clay code got featured in a popular computer science blog "the morning paper"
- For the case when $d<n-1$, the clay codes are not exactly MSR, though they have optimal repair bandwidth. (few compulsory helper nodes $(d-k)$ need to be contacted compulsorily during a node's recovery).


## Small d MSR Construction

- MSR Construction $(d<n-1)$ with parameters:

$$
(n=s t, k=n-r, d=k+s-1),\left(\alpha=s^{t}, \beta=s^{t-1}, \mathbb{F}_{q}\right)
$$

for any $s \in\{2,3,4\}, t \geq 2, r \geq s$.

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(n=s t, k=n-r, d=k+s-1),\left(\alpha=s^{t}, \beta=s^{t-1}, \mathbb{F}_{q}\right)
$$

for any $s \in\{2,3,4\}, t \geq 2, r \geq s$.

- ( $n, k, d$ ) MSR codes for $d \in\{k+1, k+2, k+3\}$ can be obtained by shortening $(n+\Delta, k+\Delta, d+\Delta)$ MSR code where $\Delta=\left\lceil\frac{n}{s}\right\rceil s-n$


## MSR Construction: 3D Representation of a Codeword

$$
(n=s t, k, d),\left(\alpha=s^{t}, \beta=s^{t-1}, \mathbb{F}_{q}\right), s=d-k+1
$$



$$
s=4, t=5
$$

Plane dot representation


- There are $n \alpha=s \times t \times s^{t}$ code symbols in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$.
- They can be indexed by 3-tuple $(x, y ; \underline{z})$ where $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}$, $y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}, \underline{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}^{t}$.
- $(x, y)$ tuple indicates node, $\underline{z}$ is used to index the $\alpha$ symbols within a node.


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Plane dot representation

$\underline{z}=(3,2,3,1,0)$

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- They can be indexed by 3-tuple $(x, y ; \underline{z})$ where $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}$, $y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}, \underline{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}^{t}$.
- $(x, y)$ tuple indicates node, $\underline{z}$ is used to index the $\alpha$ symbols within a node.
- The code is described by r $\alpha$ parity check equations over $n \alpha$ symbols.
- Each parity check equation is indexed by tuple $(\ell, \underline{z}), \ell \in[0, r-1], \underline{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}^{t}$.
- This can be viewed as $r$ equations per plane.


## MSR Construction: Parity Checks

The $r$ parity check equations corresponding to plane $\underline{z}$ are given by:

for all $\ell \in[0, r-1]$, where $\underline{z}=\left(z_{0}, z_{1}, \cdots, z_{t-1}\right)$ and

$$
\underline{z}(y, x)=\left(z_{0}, \cdots, z_{y-1}, x, z_{y+1}, \cdots, z_{t-1}\right), \gamma^{2} \neq 0,1 .
$$

## MSR Construction: Out of Plane Symbols

- $s=2, t=3$
- Circled symbols are involved in parity checks of plane $\underline{z}=(1,1,0)$
- Blue circles are in-plane and Red are out-of-plane


$z(0,0)=(0,1,0)$

$\underline{z}(1,0)=(1,0,0)$



## MSR Construction: Theta Assignment

$$
\theta_{x, y, x^{\prime}}=\Theta_{y}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right), \quad \forall x, x^{\prime} \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}
$$

$\Theta_{y}$ is designed to have following properties for every $y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}$ :

- $\theta_{x, y, x}=\theta_{y}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{s} \Longrightarrow$ to satisfy MDS property
- For $s=2$

$$
\Theta_{y}=\left[\begin{array}{cc}
\theta_{y} & \theta_{1, y} \\
\theta_{2, y} & \theta_{y}
\end{array}\right]
$$

- For $s=2$, need $q \geq 2 n$ and for $s=3,4$ need $q \geq 18 t+2=O(n)$


## An Example: $s=2, r=3$

$$
(n=2 t, k=n-3, d=n-2)
$$

## MDS Property:

- The code should be able to recover from any $r=3$ erasure patterns.
- Given an $r$ erasure pattern $\mathcal{E}$, each plane is associated with a score called Intersection Score (IS).

$$
I S(\mathcal{E}, \underline{z})=\left|\left\{\left(z_{y}, y\right) \in \mathcal{E} \mid y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}\right\}\right|
$$

- For, $\mathcal{E}=\{(0,0),(1,1),(1,2)\}$


IS = 0


IS = 1


IS = 2

- Intersection score is number of hole-dot pairs in the plane-dot representation.


## An Example: $s=2, r=3$

- Planes are ordered by their intersection score and erased symbols are recovered sequentially.
- Sometimes few planes with same intersection scores are to be solved together.


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- Planes are ordered by their intersection score and erased symbols are recovered sequentially.
- Sometimes few planes with same intersection scores are to be solved together.
- We will look at an erasure pattern of the form:
- Two erasures with same $y$ value i.e., $\mathcal{E}=\left\{\left(0, y_{1}\right),\left(1, y_{1}\right),\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)\right\}$


Case 2

- For this case, planes can have intersection scores 1,2


## An Example: $s=2, r=3$

Two erasures with same $y$ value i.e., $\mathcal{E}=\left\{\left(0, y_{1}\right),\left(1, y_{1}\right),\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)\right\}$

$$
\sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_{s}} \theta_{x, y ; z_{y}}^{\ell} C(x, y, \underline{z})+\sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}_{t}} \sum_{x \neq z_{y}} \gamma_{x, z_{y}} \theta_{z_{y}, y ; x}^{\ell} C\left(z_{y}, y, \underline{z}(y, x)\right)=0
$$



- $I S(\mathcal{E}, \underline{z})=1, z_{y_{1}}=0, z_{y_{2}} \neq x_{2}$ reduces to:

$$
\sum_{(x, y) \in \mathcal{E}} \theta_{x, y ; z_{y}}^{\ell} C(x, y, \underline{z})+\gamma_{1,0} \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}^{\ell} C\left(0, y_{1}, \underline{z}\left(y_{1}, 1\right)\right)=\kappa^{*}
$$

- Look at plane $\underline{z}^{\prime}=\underline{z}\left(y_{1}, 1\right), I S(\mathcal{E}, \underline{z})=1$ and

$$
\sum_{(x, y) \in \mathcal{E}} \theta_{x, y, z_{y}^{\prime}}^{\ell} C\left(x, y, \underline{z}^{\prime}\right)+\gamma_{0,1} \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}^{\ell} C\left(1, y_{1}, \underline{z}\right)=\kappa^{*}
$$

- 6 equations and 6 unknowns.


## An Example: $s=2, r=3$

$$
H_{S}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & & \\
\theta_{0, y_{1}, 0} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}} & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1} & & \\
\theta_{0, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}^{2} & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & & \\
\hline & \gamma & & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
& \gamma \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0} & & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 1} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}} \\
& \gamma \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}^{2}
\end{array}\right]
$$

- Let $\left(f_{0}, f_{1}, f_{2}, g_{0}, g_{1}, g_{2}\right)^{T}$ be an vector in left null space of $H_{S}$. Let,

$$
f(x)=\sum_{j=0}^{2} f_{j} x^{j} \text { and } g(x)=\sum_{j=0}^{2} g_{j} x^{j}
$$

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\theta_{0, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}^{2} & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & & \\
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$$

- $\mathrm{fH}_{s}=0$ implies that

$$
\begin{aligned}
f\left(\theta_{y_{1}}\right)=f\left(\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right)=g\left(\theta_{y_{1}}\right)=g\left(\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right) & =0 \text { where } \theta_{0, y_{1}, 0}=\theta_{1, y_{1}, 1}=\theta_{y_{1}} \\
f\left(\theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}\right)+\gamma g\left(\theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}\right) & =0, \quad \gamma f\left(\theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}\right)+g\left(\theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}\right)=0
\end{aligned}
$$

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& \gamma \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0} & & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 1} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}} \\
& \gamma \theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}^{2} & & \theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & \theta_{1, y_{1}, 1}^{2} & \theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}^{2}
\end{array}\right]
$$

- Let $\left(f_{0}, f_{1}, f_{2}, g_{0}, g_{1}, g_{2}\right)^{T}$ be an vector in left null space of $H_{S}$. Let,

$$
f(x)=\sum_{j=0}^{2} f_{j} x^{j} \text { and } g(x)=\sum_{j=0}^{2} g_{j} x^{j}
$$

- $\mathrm{fH}_{s}=0$ implies that

$$
\begin{aligned}
f\left(\theta_{y_{1}}\right)=f\left(\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right)=g\left(\theta_{y_{1}}\right)=g\left(\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right) & =0 \text { where } \theta_{0, y_{1}, 0}=\theta_{1, y_{1}, 1}=\theta_{y_{1}} \\
f\left(\theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}\right)+\gamma g\left(\theta_{1, y_{1}, 0}\right) & =0, \quad \gamma f\left(\theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}\right)+g\left(\theta_{0, y_{1}, 1}\right)=0
\end{aligned}
$$

- Substituting $f(x)=f_{2}\left(x-\theta_{y_{1}}\right)\left(x-\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right)$ and $g(x)=g_{2}\left(x-\theta_{y_{1}}\right)\left(x-\theta_{x_{2}, y_{2}, a_{y_{2}}}\right)$ we get

$$
\left[\begin{array}{ll}
1 & \gamma \\
\gamma & 1
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l}
f_{2} \\
g_{2}
\end{array}\right]=0 \Longrightarrow f_{2}=g_{2}=0 \Longrightarrow f=g=0
$$

## MSR Codes: Summary

- Optimal access, optimal sub-packetization, explicit MSR constructions for the parameters $d=n-1$
- Systems implementation and evaluation of Clay codes over Ceph.
- Small $d$ constructions for $d \in\{k+1, k+2, k+3\}$.


## Thanks!!

