

# **GraphOS: Towards Oblivious Graph Processing**

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# ABSTRACT

We propose GraphOS, a system that allows a client that owns a graph database to outsource it to an untrusted server for storage and querying. It relies on doubly-oblivious primitives and trusted hardware to achieve a very strong privacy and efficiency notion which we call *oblivious* graph processing: the server learns nothing besides the number of graph vertexes and edges, and for each query its type and response size. At a technical level, GraphOS stores the graph on a *doubly-oblivious data structure*, so that all vertex/edge accesses are indistinguishable. For this purpose, we propose OMIX++, a novel doubly-oblivious map that outperforms the previous state of the art by up to 34×, and may be of independent interest. Moreover, to avoid any leakage from CPU instructionfetching during query evaluation, we propose algorithms for four fundamental graph queries (BFS/DFS traversal, minimum spanning tree, and single-source shortest paths) that have a fixed execution trace, i.e., the sequence of executed operations is independent of the input. By combining these techniques, we eliminate all information that a hardware adversary observing the memory access pattern within the protected enclave can infer. We benchmarked GraphOS against the best existing solution, based on oblivious relational DBMS (translating graph queries to relational operators). GraphOS is not only significantly more performant (by up to two orders of magnitude for our tested graphs) but it eliminates leakage related to the graph topology that is practically inherent when a relational DBMS is used unless all operations are "padded" to the worst case.

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The source code, data, and/or other artifacts have been made available at https://github.com/jgharehchamani/graphos.

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

Motivated by numerous real-world applications where the outsourced sensitive data can be modeled as graphs (e.g., semantic web, GIS, social networks, web graphs, transportation networks), in this work we focus on the problem of privacy-preserving graph processing on the cloud. We consider a setting with two parties, a client (data owner) and an untrusted server. The first is willing to outsource her sensitive graph database to the second under encryption, and later requests the evaluation of graph queries. Crucially, we want to restrict the information that is revealed to the server to a *minimum*. E.g., initially the server learns just the size of the graph (number of vertexes and number of edges), whereas for every graph query the server only learns the size of the result and the query type. We refer to this as *oblivious graph processing*. Moreover, we want to limit the client's participation in computing. In a standard client-server model the client issues a query and receives a response; no additional interaction should be required and the computation should be undertaken solely by the server.

**From Oblivious Relational DBMS to Oblivious Graph Processing.** One way to achieve graph processing is via relational database management systems (DBMS) that can be naturally used for graph query workloads [65, 66]. Vertexes and edges are stored in relational tables and graph queries are translated to relational database query operators (e.g., multiple self-joins) on these tables. Privacy-preserving DBMS have been proposed previously, e.g., CryptDB [89] and Monomi [111]. However, these systems leak sensitive information even *before* executing any graph query<sup>1</sup> so they fail to achieve our strong privacy requirement outlined above.

Recently, Zheng et al. [124], Eskandarian et al. [47], and Priebe et al. [91] proposed oblivious relational DBMS. These systems combine *trusted hardware* with *oblivious algorithms* to minimize the leaked information to just the size of accessed and created tables. It is important to note that trusted hardware alone [14, 96] is not sufficient as it does not hide the memory access pattern; enclave side channels allow attackers to exploit data-dependent memory accesses to extract enclave secrets [72, 76, 112]. To defend against these attacks, one must guarantee that all algorithms running inside the trusted hardware are oblivious, i.e., data-input independent. In practice, an oblivious algorithm means that for *any* two input instances of the same size, the algorithm executions (including their resulting memory accesses patterns) are indistinguishable. Hence, one may hope that these systems that combine the two techniques for relational databases can achieve oblivious graph processing.

Surprisingly, it turns out this is not true. When an oblivious relational DBMS is used for graph processing it may still leak sensitive graph information due to the need to translate graph queries to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>They are based on deterministic and order-preserving encryption that leak the distribution of the input data and/or their relative order. Devastating leakage-abuse attacks have been proposed against both of them (e.g., [85]).

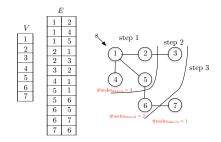


Figure 1: BFS Traversal. Tables V, E contain graph vertexes and edges. (Step 1:) performs a selection on E for initial vertex s-server learns vertex s has 3 neighbors. (Step 2:) joins the previous output with table E-server learns 2 vertexes are 2 hops away from s. (Step 3:) joins the previous output with table E-server learns that 1 vertex is 3 hops away.

relational operators. For example, consider a breadth-first-search (BFS) traversal query, as shown in Figure 1. With a relational DBMS, this is executed as a sequence of joins between the vertices and the edges table, and/or self-joins of the edges table. Even if each of these joins is performed obliviously with [124], due to this multistep approach the server is able to observe all intermediate join result sizes. Concretely, it learns the number of vertexes that have distance 1, 2, 3, ... from s, which is potentially sensitive information about the topology of the graph. Padding intermediate results to the maximum size would eliminate this leakage but with prohibitive performance downgrade (quadratic in the graph size). To some extent, this leakage is inherent to this approach, thus motivating the need for systems explicitly designed for oblivious graph processing. Our Result. In this work, we introduce GraphOS (Graph Oblivious System)<sup>2</sup> an oblivious graph processing system that hides the topology of the input graph and only leaks information about its size and the result size (and type) of each query. GraphOS also relies on trusted hardware oblivious primitives but it outperforms prior state-of-art solutions in terms of performance and security. Below, we outline the novelties of GraphOS.

<u>New doubly-oblivious primitive.</u> As a building block for GraphOS, we propose a new *doubly-oblivious map* (*DOMAP*), or in other words, a doubly-oblivious key-value store, called OMIX++. It ensures that all sequences of data-structure operations are indistinguishable, even against a *hardware* adversary that can observe the memory access pattern imposed by the client-side operations (which, in our system, are performed by the trusted hardware). We stress that "standard" ORAM techniques (e.g., the classic Square-Root ORAM [54] and PathORAM [107]) do not suffice to achieve this level of security in our model, as their client-side routines may still leak information to an adversary that can observe their memory access pattern (e.g., when executed from trusted hardware at the server). See also the extended discussion in Sec 3.1 and Figure 2.

GraphOS uses OMIX++ to access graph vertexes/edges without revealing the accessed element, being in the ballpark of prior plaintext approaches of "native graph" DBMS proposals (e.g., Pregelix [20], Giraph [13], GraphLab [80], Trinity [98]). OMIX++ achieves a better asymptotic complexity and practical performance than the stateof-the-art DOMAP (OMIX) [83] and can be used as a stand-alone solution in many applications besides graph queries as we show in Sec 6. We build OMIX++ by storing an AVL tree inside an array in OBLIX [83]. Crucially, we use a new eviction strategy that *evicts one-path-at-a-time individually*, which improves the performance of OMIX++ over the single key-value DOMAP that can be constructed based on the approach [83], both asymptotically (more than a logarithmic factor) and experimentally.

We also propose an oblivious initialization process for OMIX++, which is significantly faster than the only existing one for DOMAP (setting up an empty DOMAP and obliviously inserting each keyvalue pair). Finally, to alleviate the context-switching overhead when transferring data between unprotected and protected memory (which can be significant in a trusted enclave) we propose a path-caching mechanism to temporarily store eviction results inside the protected memory of the trusted hardware. Each eviction corresponds to a path of the DORAM tree; since the adversary already knows the corresponding leafs, there is no need to obliviously access them and no extra leakage is introduced due to caching. Graph-algorithms with fixed execution trace. It is important to note that using OMIX++ is not sufficient for eliminating query execution leakage because, even though the code is loaded into the trusted hardware enclave encrypted, still the specific position of each fetched instruction is observable by a "hardware-level" attacker at the machine where the enclave lies. One could try to eliminate this leakage by loading the code itself in a doubly-oblivious primitive; indeed this approach has been explored by recent works [1, 122] but it can significantly hurt performance as discussed in Sec 2.

In this work, we achieve an efficient solution, by proposing graph query algorithms that have a *deterministic execution trace*, i.e., the sequence of executed CPU instructions executed is fixed *a priori* (modulo the graph size) and independent of the specific input values. In particular, we propose algorithms for BFS/DFS, minimum spanning tree, and single-source shortest path queries that have a deterministic execution trace and only reveal the vertex/edge accesses each time. Our algorithms eliminate all data-dependent loops and branches by using a small number of dummy operations and the loop-coalescing technique [78]. E.g., instead of padding the number of neighbor accesses to the worst case (number of vertices) for each vertex in BFS, we hide the transition between vertexes in the BFS algorithm to prevent any access pattern leakage.

These techniques work in a complementary manner with our DOMAP in GraphOS by first loading the graph into a OMIX++ and then executing our graph algorithms with fixed execution trace replacing all graph accesses with calls to the DOMAP. Doublyoblivious primitives eliminate any leakage from the graph dataaccesses, whereas the deterministic sequence of fetched and executed instructions eliminates any leakage from instruction-accesses. Implementation and benchmarking. We implement GraphOS using Intel-SGX as a proof of concept and compare it with OPAQUE, the oblivious relational DBMS of [124] on a number of graph algorithms, in terms of leakage and query performance. Note that GraphOS can be implemented on any trusted hardware that provides specific characteristics explained in Sec 3.1. As described in more detail below, GraphOS outperforms OPAQUE for all query types (by up to two orders of magnitude), and achieves overall less leakage (strictly less for BFS/DFS traversal and single-source shortest paths, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Inspired by the similarly pronounced greek word for graph,  $\Gamma \rho \dot{\alpha} \phi o \varsigma$ .

equivalent for minimum spanning tree). All our implementations are publicly available in [51] constituting also the first open-source implementation of doubly oblivious primitives.

**Experimental evaluation.** We experimentally evaluate both the performance of our DOMAP (OMIX++) and our oblivious graph processing scheme GraphOS. The results are shown in Sec 6.

<u>OMIX++ evaluation</u>. For OMIX++, we compare its performance with the single-value DOMAP built from [83], which we call OMIX, in three applications: *private contact discovery, key transparency logs*, and *searchable encryption*. Our results show that an OMIX++ access (look-up) is overall **1.8–20**× faster, resulting in the most efficient existing DOMAP. This improvement is larger in applications that impose access in-batch. E.g, used for searchable encryption, OMIX++ leads to **17**× and **25**× improvement over OMIX in search and update operations, respectively. Signal, the secure messaging app [8], has recently moved to adopt techniques inspired by those of [83] for private contact discovery (via oblivious key/value look-ups) [90]. Our experimental evaluation shows that OMIX++ significantly outperforms [83], e.g., one look-up access with 2<sup>24</sup> entries takes 37ms computation time with OMIX++ vs. 767ms with OMIX.

GraphOS evaluation. We compare its performance with OPAQUE, the state-of-the-art approach for private graph processing from oblivious relational DBMS [124]. We measure the execution times for initialization, adding/removing/retrieving vertex and edge, BF-S/DFS traversal, minimum spanning tree, and single-source shortest path for various graph sizes/denseness. Our results show that GraphOS is 2.6-13.6× and 2.4-136× faster for adding/removing an edge and a vertex, respectively, and 95-150× for retrieving one. Its query execution time is 6-410× smaller for BFS/DFS, 1.4-86× for MST, 1-22× for SSSP. Recall that for SSSP and BFS/DFS OPAQUE reveals information about the graph topology; eliminating this leakage (via worst-case padding) would make it prohibitively slower! We also considered a distributed version of GraphOS using the split-ORAM approach of [38]. Finally, we tested an "integrated approach" where GraphOS is deployed on-the-fly to build its indexes when a query is to be processed. That is, upon receiving a query, we create all the required for GraphOS indexes, and then we execute this graph query. Somewhat surprisingly, even in this configuration, the query time of GraphOS (which includes the initialization costs for building the indexes) is significantly faster than OPAQUE. It is worth noting that usually better security is achieved at the cost of worse performance. However, compared to OPAQUE, GraphOS not only has less leakage for graph queries but is also more efficient.

# **2 OTHER RELATED WORK**

Here we discuss works relevant to ours, besides those on oblivious relational DBMS and doubly-oblivious primitives described above. **Oblivious execution of arbitrary code.** Eliminating the leakage from memory accesses when running programs in the trusted hardware enclave has been the focus of a recent line of works, e.g., [77, 95, 102] that explore this based on different hardware assumptions. The most advanced of these works focus on oblivious execution of arbitrary code [1, 122]. At a high level, this is achieved by loading the code itself on doubly-oblivious storage/memory. Obfuscuro [1] uses an oblivious array for the data and one for the code in order to make arbitrary program execution oblivious (formally,

their target is cryptographic obfuscation). Klotski [122] improved the performance of Obfuscuro at the cost of extra leakage. These approaches can also be used to achieve double-obliviousness for any graph algorithm; however, they both have limitations in terms of low efficiency/scalability. Moreover, they assume that both the input data and the program must fit inside the enclaves, which makes them not directly applicable to our case. Our OMIX++ can be used as a drop-in replacement both to address the above limitation and to improve their performance (e.g., replacing multiple sequential scans over the position map with faster oblivious accesses).

MPC-based doubly-oblivious approaches. A different approach (in a different model) is based on secure multi-party computation (MPC), where one or more parties secret-share their data across multiple non-colluding servers [5, 16, 17, 44, 45, 48, 55, 56, 71, 75, 78, 87, 108, 113, 117, 121]. The vast majority of these works focus on challenges arising from the communication and interactive nature of MPC [3, 6, 7, 9, 61, 114] that are not applicable to our setting. The doubly-oblivious nature of these approaches can inspire the designing of doubly-oblivious algorithms for hardware enclaves. ObliVM [78] proposes a platform for general-purpose oblivious computation and GraphSC [87] builds a platform on top of ObliVM specifically for distributed graph computation. GraphSC relies on garbled circuits and is reportedly up to three orders of magnitude slower than OPAQUE [124]. [78] also proposed an optimized oblivious DFS in the MPC setting; however these approaches are not always suitable for trusted hardware environments (see Sec 6.4).

**Other doubly-oblivious approaches.** Recently, Shi [99] proposed a novel doubly-oblivious heap which we appropriately implemented in trusted execution environment (TEE) and integrated it with GraphOS (for more efficient SSSP queries). ZeroTrace [95] proposes doubly-oblivious PathORAM and CircuitORAM constructions; however, as shown in [83] it is outperformed by OBLIX. Shroud [79] parallelizes across multiple co-processors the Binary Tree ORAM [101]—both Shroud and Binary Tree ORAM can trivially be doubly-oblivious but they require super-linear storage and increased (compared to PathORAM) access time. Pyramid ORAM [31] is a hierarchical ORAM designed for Intel SGX (requiring constant oblivious memory). POSUP [63] and MOSE [62] are two additional CircuitORAM-based approaches. Recently, Snoopy [35] introduced an efficient and secure doubly-oblivious key-value store designed for high-throughput, but with increased latency.

**Other ORAM approaches.** There are parallel/distributed/concurrent non doubly-oblivious approaches based on different models, i.e., relying on the existence of a trusted-proxy [33, 58, 94, 106]; the existence of multiple servers [22]; sharing (in a non doubly-oblivious manner) an encrypted log on top of a hierarchical ORAM [119], or on top of a tree-based ORAM [21]; requiring specialized-hardware [49]. RingORAM [93] is a (non doubly-oblivious) PathORAM-based approach with a more efficient eviction strategy. PRO-ORAM [109] is a read-only ORAM running inside an enclave which requires  $O(\sqrt{N})$  oblivious/private memory. Obliviate [2] recognizes the importance of doubly-oblivious algorithms supporting doubly-oblivious read and write operators; however, it does not discuss how to make the eviction algorithm doubly-oblivious. There is also a different, more theoretical line of works which focuses on the problem of Oblivious Parallel RAMs [18, 23–25, 27, 86, 92].

**Oblivious relational DBMS.** There exist two additional works for oblivious relational DBMS [47, 91], besides [124]. However, they both require large amounts of hardware-oblivious memory that is not compatible with early trusted hardware implementations.

**Searchable/Structured graph encryption.** Query evaluation over encrypted graphs has been studied previously. Chase and Kamara [26] propose the notion of structured encryption (SE) that can be used, as a special case, for encrypting a graph. Their solution supports limited types of graph queries (only neighbours and adjacency). SE leaks additional information about the structure of the graph, i.e., the neighbors of each vertex and the general graph topology. Subsequent SE graph-works (e.g., [67, 74, 82]) suffer from this limitation. SE-based solutions also offer support for a plethora of queries, including point/keyword-search queries[36, 37, 41, 42], range queries[38–40], and more general SQL queries[68].

## **3 PRELIMINARIES**

**Graph Notation.** We consider directed graphs (V, E) where V denotes the set of vertices and E denotes the set of edges. Each vertex  $v \in V$  is identified by a unique identifier *id*. For simplicity, we assume that vertices are labeled from 1 to |V|. Each directed weighted edge (*init*, *trm*, *weight*)  $\in E$  has an integer weight and is associated with its initial *init* and terminal *trm* vertices.

## 3.1 Threat Model

We adopt a similar threat model as the one proposed by prior works that combine oblivious primitives with trusted execution environments (TEE), e.g., [83, 124]. We assume a hardware-level attacker that can fully observe the location of all memory accesses and can also control the server's software stack, as well as have full control of the OS. Figure 2 illustrates a key difference between the TEE model and the client-server model. In the client-server model (which corresponds to standard ORAM), the client maintains a fully trusted machine that may be actively involved in parts of the computation (e.g., running the client-side routines of ORAM). In contrast, in the TEE model, the user encrypts his/her data and uploads it to the untrusted server. The computation is then fully outsourced to the TEE, which is located on the untrusted server that may be compromised by the hardware adversary.

Our adversary cannot attack the secure processor stealing information from inside it (including the processor's secret keys). The adversary also cannot access the plaintext values loaded in the secure processor's protected enclave portion of the memory (but can observe the accessed memory locations). Protected memory is encrypted with the processor's secret key. In line with previous works, we consider as out of scope enclave side-channel leakages (e.g., cache-timing, power analysis, or other timing attacks— [19, 57, 60, 84, 97, 115]), rollback attacks [112], as well as denial-ofservice attacks. There are complementary techniques (e.g., [1, 28, 32, 59, 102, 103, 122]) that can potentially mitigate such attacks.

**Trusted Execution Environment (TEE).** GraphOS and our proposed doubly-oblivious data structure can be implemented using any trusted hardware environment (e.g., Intel-SGX [81]; AMD enclave [70]; ARM TrustZone [10]) which provides isolation, sealing, and remote attestation. This is particularly important in view of the recent attacks against Intel-SGX [76, 112]. As a proof of concept,

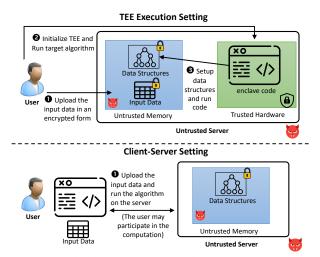


Figure 2: TEE (top) vs. Client-Server (bottom) settings. In TEE, the user uploads encrypted data and sets up the enclave. Data structures are then initialized and code is executed at the server. In Client-Server, the user may locally maintain some data and participate in parts of the computation.

we implemented it using Intel-SGX [81]. Intel-SGX provides three important properties as follows. *Isolation* is provided by reserving a portion of the system's memory, called Enclave Page Cache (EPC), used to store the user's code and data and maintain its content in encrypted form (the total EPC memory size is 128MB). It is important to note, although the new version of Intel-SGX (v2) provides bigger EPC support, the performance of accessing small EPC (less than 128MB) is significantly better than larger EPC sizes due to the paging overhead [46]. *Sealing* allows the enclave to persistently store its data outside the secure environment. *Remote attestation* ensures the correctness of the running code.

#### 3.2 Oblivious Primitives

**Oblivious operations.** Similar to [83], we assume oblivious routines for selection and comparison. *Osel* on input values *a*, *b* and selection bit *c* outputs *a* if *c* = 1, else *b*. *Ocmp* takes two *l*-bitlength inputs *a*, *b* and outputs 1, 0, -1 if a > b, a = b, or a < b respectively. Both routines must run obliviously. In our code, assuming that *c* is the all-0s or all-1s string of the same bitlength as *a*, *b* we implement *Osel* and *Ocmp* to return

$$Osel(c, a, b) = (c \& a) | (!c \& b)$$
$$Ocmp(a, b) = -((a - b) \gg (l - 1)) + ((b - a) \gg (l - 1)),$$

where  $!, \&, |, \gg$  are bitwise negation, conjunction, disjunction, and right-shift respectively. For brevity, we do not explicitly include *Ocmp* in our pseudocodes, but all comparisons are implemented with it (detailed pseudocodes with *Osel* and *Ocmp* can be found in the extended version). Our algorithms rely on oblivious sorting, i.e., sorting where the pattern of accessed memory locations does not depend on the actual data. We used Bitonic sort [15] that achieves  $O(N \log^2 N)$  complexity for N elements using *Ocmp* for comparison and two calls to *Osel* for oblivious swap.

**Oblivious RAM (ORAM)/MAP (OMAP).** This notion was introduced by Goldreich and Ostrovsky [54] more than two decades ago and has been further improved by a plethora of subsequent works (e.g., [12, 29, 34, 50, 88]). Intuitively, it hides array access pattern by accessing extra data blocks and random-shuffling after each access. Indeed, even repeated requests for the same data are indistinguishable from random. In this paper, we focus on PathORAM of Stefanov et al. [107]. In PathORAM, the server stores a binary tree of N buckets each of which has C blocks, and the client maintains a position map (a map from block id to leaf) and a stash that keeps overflowed and temporary blocks. In each block access, the client searches stash and if it is not found there it asks the server to send back the path corresponding to the target block (using position map). It then decrypts them and extracts the entry that matches the target index. The client chooses a new random leaf and then repositions the retrieved nodes from along the path (freshly re-encrypted), together with the entries in stash, in a way that "pushes" entries as deep as possible from root to leaf depending on their mapped positions. Any overflowing entries are stored in stash. The new encrypted path is stored at the server who updates the binary tree.

On the other hand, Oblivious MAP is a privacy-preserving version of a map data structure (we focus on the construction proposed by Wang et al. [118]). At a high level, it uses ORAM to implement an AVL-tree to store/access key-values in an oblivious way. In particular, OMAP provides three protocols, namely Setup, Find, and Insert, to initialize the structure, retrieve the value for a given key, and insert a key/value pair. These protocols are described in detail in the extended version. During initialization, Setup creates a Path-ORAM and saves an empty node for the root of the AVL tree at a randomly selected position called rootID. Subsequent Find and Insert calls traverse the AVL tree from the root to find or insert a matching node, with each node traversal requiring a separate ORAM access. The ORAM position for a child node is stored at the parent. All accessed nodes are then re-encrypted and mapped to fresh random positions before being stored again at the PathORAM. For insertions, an AVL tree rebalancing process is executed via ORAM read/write accesses.

# 3.3 Doubly-Oblivious Primitives

The above oblivious primitives assume the client's memory is protected from the adversary. To provide security in a model where the adversary can observe the client memory accesses, Mishra et al. [83] proposed the notion of doubly-oblivious primitives where access to the client's memory and instructions is done in an oblivious way too. The importance of such high level of security is clear when considering code executed in TEE, as in this setting even dataoblivious protocols like classic ORAM (e.g., [54, 107]) are no longer secure due to running the client-side routines on the server. Hence, an adversary can easily distinguish different traces of instruction executions by analyzing the instruction access pattern, e.g., monitoring jump locations in the assembly code. Although there are other doubly-oblivious constructions such as CircuitORAM [116] (whose accesses can be implemented by circuits), here we focus on the schemes of [83]), as the state of the art. Next, we briefly explain their proposed constructions for array and map data structures (details in the extended version).

**Doubly-Oblivious RAM (DORAM).** Mishra et al. [83] introduced a doubly-oblivious data structure called OBLIX, constructed from a

doubly-oblivious version of Path-ORAM, i.e., accessing the stash and the client's memory via oblivious routines, with some additional optimizations. OBLIX provides two procedures: INITIALIZE and ACCESS. In the initialization procedure, it gets a list of n blocks of data and constructs a Path-ORAM tree level-by-level, from the leaf to the root. At each level, it uses oblivious sort and sequential scan to assign the unassigned blocks to that level's buckets. Access allows the client to read/write a block in the path of leaf l. To do that, the client fetches buckets in the path from the root to leaf *l* and stores their corresponding blocks in the stash. Then, it executes a sequential scan to find the target block and changes its position (and its value for write operations). It then calls EVICT, to assign blocks to retrieved buckets. It first computes the capacity of each bucket via a sequential scan over the path buckets for each block in the stash. Then, it constructs the buckets of the target path by executing an oblivious sort over the stash blocks to group together blocks with the same bucket id and sends them to the server. The asymptotics of OBLIX initialization (with local position map) and access are  $O(CN \log^3 N)$  and  $O(k^2 C \log^2 N)$ , where k is the number of retrieved paths before calling EVICT and C is the bucket size.

**Doubly-Oblivious MAP (DOMAP).** [83] also proposed a Doubly-Oblivious Sorted Multimap (DOSM) which supports multiple values for each key and batch sorted accesses. In this work, we do not need these features, so we focus on DOMAPs that support one value per key. We refer to a version of their DOSM limited to the single-value case as OMIX. OMIX is a DOMAP that uses an AVL-tree on top of OBLIX. All stash accesses are performed in an oblivious manner using sequential scans. All other procedures remain the same as the AVL-tree based OMAP of [118] and Path-ORAM accesses are replaced by OBLIX. The complexity of FIND/INSERT is  $O(C \log^4 N)$  because OMAP eviction is called after log N path retrievals.

**DORAM and DOMAP Security.** The *security of DORAM and DOMAP* [83], is defined in the real/ideal paradigm. An adversary interacts either with the real scheme or with a simulator that only gets the memory size, i.e., *N*, as the initial input. In both cases, the adversary can execute INITIALIZE and any number of ACCESS (in DORAM) or FIND/INSERT queries (in DOMAP). Furthermore, it can observe the communication channel between the client and server, as well as the access pattern of the client's and server's memories. A DORAM/DOMAP scheme is secure if no efficient polynomial-time adversary can distinguish between these two cases with non-negligible probability. I.e., the security definition of DORAM/DOMAP is the same as the security definition of ORAM/OMAP with an additional constraint that enforces the client's memory accesses to be oblivious too. For the formal definition, we refer readers to [83].

**Opaque.** OPAQUE [124] is an oblivious distributed data analytics platform. It uses TEE over Apache Spark [11] and provides strong security guarantees for computation integrity and obliviousness. At a high level, it constructs new oblivious SQL operators based on oblivious algorithms (such as oblivious sort and oblivious permutation). In OPAQUE, the cost of running oblivious queries is mostly affected by the oblivious sort algorithm.

#### **4 OUR DOUBLY-OBLIVIOUS PRIMITIVES**

In this section, we propose our doubly-oblivious primitive OMIX++. The obliviousness of our approach follows from the fact that all

Algorithm 1 OMIX++ Initialization Procedure				
1: <b>f</b>	<b>function</b> INITIALIZE( $[bl_i]_1^n, N$ )			
2:	Nodes $\leftarrow [bl_i]_1^n \triangleright$ Create AVL Nodes from key-value pairs			
3:	Pad Nodes with dummy blocks to a power of 2			
4:	Obliviously sort Nodes based on their keys			
5:	root ←CreateAVLTree(Nodes,0,Nodes.size-1)			
6:	Add <i>N</i> – Nodes. <i>size</i> dummy nodes			
7:	DORAM.INITIALIZE(N, Nodes)			
8:	return root			

- 9: end function
- 10:

11: function CREATEAVLTREE(Nodes, strt, end)

12:	<b>if</b> (strt > end) <b>return</b> (-1,0)	▶ (node leaf, node key)
13:	$mid = \lfloor (strt + end)/2 \rfloor$	
14:	curRoot ← Nodes[mid]	

15:	$(curRoot.leftChildKey, curRoot.leftChildPos) \leftarrow$
	CreateAVLTree(Nodes, strt, mid – 1)
16:	$(curRoot.rightChildKey, curRoot.rightChildPos) \leftarrow$
	CreateAVLTree(Nodes, mid + 1, end)
17:	set curRoot.pos value using <i>PRF</i> evaluation % N
18:	<pre>return (curRoot.pos, curRoot.key)</pre>
19: (	end function

distinct operations create indistinguishable memory access traces as can be seen by inspecting the pseudocodes. Below, we provide the high-level idea of our construction and discuss its security and efficiency. For full details and security proof, we refer readers to Appendix D in the extended version.

#### 4.1 OMIX++: New Doubly-Oblivious MAP

Internally, OMIX++ uses OBLIX to store nodes of an AVL tree. Each node holds (besides its key, value, and its children's keys) the PathO-RAM binary tree leaf positions (pos, childrenPos) for itself and its children. Hence, an OMIX++ access consists of multiple OBLIX accesses, always starting from the root node and continuing to the maximum AVL-tree height for N nodes. There are two main new features in OMIX++: An oblivious initialization process that can be executed directly at the server and an early eviction strategy that makes OMIX++ asymptotically and concretely faster than OMIX.

INITIALIZE. The initialization procedure (Algorithm 1) gets as input an array of data blocks with size *n* and the maximum number of data blocks OMIX++ will maintain (denoted by N). First, it creates an AVL node for each key-value pair after padding them with dummies up to the next power of 2, and obliviously sorts them based on their keys (lines 2-4). In this way, a unique AVL-tree can then be built for them obliviously in a deterministic manner, just by using blocks' indexes recursively (e.g. the first block will be the leftmost leaf, the second block will be the parent of the first leaf, ..., the last block will be the rightmost leaf). Then, it creates the AVLtree recursively (CREATEAVLTREE) and assigns each AVL node to a leaf using PRF evaluation (modulo N). CREATEAVLTREE traverses the AVL-tree using DFS strategy and sets the children keys and positions of each AVL node in the AVL-tree structure. Finally, it creates dummy blocks up to N and runs the OBLIX initialization process, using the leaf positions that have been already assigned

#### Algorithm 2 OMIX++ FIND Procedure

```
1: function FIND(key, root, N)
```

- $(curkey, curPos) \leftarrow key$  and *leaf* position of the root node 2:
- 3: cnt = 0; result = $\perp$
- do 4:
- Retrieve curNode while setting a new random 5: position for that and its child through DORAM.Access for (curkey, curPos)
- Keep the new random position of the child and use it 6 as the new position of the node in the next iteration 7:
- $cmpRes \leftarrow Ocmp(key, curNode.Key)$
- $(curkey, curPos) \leftarrow Evaluate cmpRes.$  If the target key 8: is found, return a dummy pair. Otherwise, select the left/right child of curNode for the next step using Osel
- Assign curNode.Value to result obliviously if cmpRes 9 shows the equality
- 10: cnt + +
- while cnt  $\leq 1.44 * \log N$ 11:
- return result 12

# 13: end function

during the AVL-tree construction (line 17). Note that, unlike the initialization procedure of OBLIX that randomly generates positions of data blocks, we need to use the AVL node positions (that are also assigned randomly) in the setup procedure of OBLIX so that we can keep the AVL-tree structure. After the OBLIX setup, the root node is returned so that future accesses can be bootstrapped.

**FIND.** During lookups (Algorithm 2), the client traverses the tree from the root to the maximum height  $(1.44 \cdot \log N)$  in order to find the node with the requested key, each time performing an OBLIX ACCESS. The major novelty of OMIX++ is its eviction strategy. In OMIX, all ORAM accessed blocks during AVL-tree traversal are stored in stash, until one eventual "large" eviction is used to place all of them back at the end of the query. On the other hand, OMIX++ calls the EVICT procedure one path at a time and as "early" as possible for each path. In other words, OMIX++ evicts the fetched ORAM blocks after each OBLIX ACCESS (line 5). To do this, we evaluate the random position of the left/right child node (depending on the comparison of the search key) ahead of time and evict the current AVL node with the updated child position. This position is then used at the next iteration as the new position of the retrieved AVL node (lines 6-8). This individual eviction strategy significantly improves the performance of OMIX++ compared to OMIX, as we show in our experimental evaluation (Sec. 6). The primary reason for this improvement is that by evicting one path at a time we keep the stash size small, which directly affects the performance of oblivious sort which is the bottleneck during evictions for OMIX. INSERT. The INSERT algorithm is similar to FIND due to the similarity of these procedures in an AVL tree. It gets a key-value pair, the root node of the AVL tree, and the maximum capacity N. It starts from the root until the node is either found and updated, or created by adding a new AVL leaf node, updating its corresponding parent in the tree path, and storing the new node by an OBLIX write. Creating a new node may make the tree unbalanced. Rebalancing is done in the standard way executing left or right rotation depending on

the height difference between the children). To do this obliviously

and efficiently we proceed as follows. First, along the traversed AVL path, all "sibling" nodes are also fetched (as they may be necessary for rebalancing) for a total of  $2 \cdot [1.44 \cdot \log N]$  calls to OBLIX Ac-CESS, and fetched nodes are stored in a temporary node stash. The same path is traversed again, this time from leaf to root. At each level, relevant nodes and their parents are extracted from the node stash (via sequential scan for obliviousness) and we check whether rebalancing at that level is necessary. To hide the level and type of rebalancing (left/right/left-left/right-right/left-right/right-left), a "dummy" rebalance is done at each level (via OBLIX ACCESS calls). Path-Caching Mechanism. An observant reader may note that a side-effect of our individual path eviction is that during insertions the same nodes are accessed and evicted twice (one in the root-toleaf traversal and one in the opposite direction). In the TEE setting, data transfer between the enclave and untrusted storage is a slow operation and may introduce considerable overhead. To alleviate the overhead from these duplicate accesses, we propose an intermediate path-cache mechanism that stores paths previously evicted for faster access. Our cache is implemented by a simple non-oblivious tunable map inside the enclave memory. Whenever the enclave needs to fetch a path (during FIND/INSERT), it first checks whether it exists in the cache-if not, it requests it from the untrusted storage. On the other hand, when a path is evicted, the corresponding buckets are written in the cache and can be subsequently fetched without the context-switch overhead. This is particularly helpful for INSERT, where the same nodes are accessed more than once. This cache is iteratively evicted to untrusted storage to ensure it can always fit inside the enclave memory. It is important to note that accessing this path-cache map can be done non-obliviously (hence efficiently) without revealing any extra information to the server. This holds since the specific positions that are accessed only have to do with the corresponding OBLIX leafs and this information is already known to the adversary. As we show in Sec. 6, this optimization improves the performance of OMIX++ considerably. Eviction Policy Improvement. As we mentioned in Sec 3, OBLIX executes a nested loop in the eviction procedure to assign each block to its corresponding bucket. We propose an eviction policy that improves the access of Oblix asymptotically from  $O(C \log^2 N)$ to  $O(C \log N \log^2 \log N)$  and that of OMIX++ from  $O(C \log^3 N)$  to  $O(C \log^2 N \log^2 \log N)$ . Note that this refers to OBLIX eviction and is independent of the individual eviction for OMIX++ we explained above. The high-level idea is to replace the nested loop with two oblivious sorts and a sequential scan. We explain this in more detail with a simple eviction example for a tree with four leaves and bucket size 2 in Figure 3. After fetching the target path of the tree (path from root to leaf 1), storing it in the stash, and updating the target data block, the client first assigns each non-dummy block to the lowest possible level in the stash (step 1 in the figure). Then, the client adds two (equal to the bucket capacity) dummy blocks to the end of the stash (step 2) and obliviously sorts all blocks based on how deep they can be assigned, prioritizing real blocks over dummy ones at each level (step 3). In the next step, it scans all blocks sequentially and tries to construct buckets of blocks based on the capacity of each bucket, and reassigns the overflowed ones to the other nonfull buckets in the upper levels (step 4). Finally, it executes another oblivious sort to group together all the blocks of the same bucket

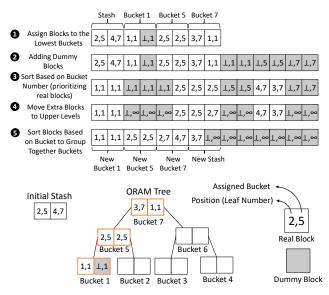


Figure 3: Improved Eviction Policy. The size of each bucket and the permanent stash is assumed to be 2; blocks' values are omitted. (1) assign real blocks of stash+path to lowest possible bucket. (2) add C = 2 dummy blocks for each bucket. (3) sort blocks based on assigned bucket prioritizing real ones over dummies. (4) move extra real blocks to upper levels. (5) group together blocks of buckets by another oblivious sort.

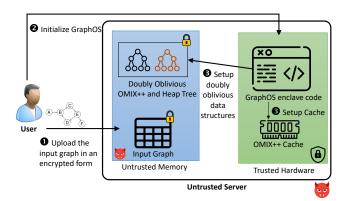
(step 5). At this point, the first six blocks (2 blocks for each bucket) create the eviction path and the next two blocks create the new stash with permanent size 2. Although our new eviction strategy improves OBLIX asymptotically, in practice the improvement is small (e.g., <8%). Therefore, due to space limitations, we defer the detailed analysis to Appendix C in the extended version.

**Efficiency and Security.** The initialization complexity of OMIX++ is  $O(CN \log^3 N)$ , since it requires two sequential scans, an oblivious sort, an OBLIX initialization (with  $O(CN \log^3 N)$  cost), and the recursive process for building the AVL-tree (O(N) since it iterates over all AVL nodes). The INSERT and FIND asymptotics are  $O(C \log^2 N \log^2 \log N)$ , since they need  $O(\log N)$  OBLIX accesses, including padding (using our optimized OBLIX eviction). For comparison, the corresponding time for OMIX is  $O(C \log^4 N)$ .

## 5 OBLIVIOUS GRAPH PROCESSING

Our main objective is to design a system that handles graph queries in an oblivious manner, i.e., without leaking the structure of the graph (or any other meaningful information about the graph besides the number of vertices and edges). Achieving obliviousness against an adversary that can observe the memory access pattern, as is the case with a system relying on TEE, is tricky as this entails two types of memory accesses: (i) *data-access*, i.e., accessing a graph vertex/edge, and (ii) *instruction-access*, i.e., fetching the next CPU instruction to be executed. Eliminating the leakage from both of them is crucial, as the following "toy" examples highlight.

Consider an algorithm that performs a scan of an array of n integers (stored sequentially in memory) incrementing a counter each time it sees an odd number and decrementing it each time it



# Figure 4: Architecture of GraphOS and its initialization steps. (1) upload the input graph in encrypted form. (2) setup GraphOS enclave. (3) initialize the needed data structures.

sees an even number. Although the sequence of data accesses is deterministic and *a priori* known to the adversary, observing which instruction is being fetched for each array position leaks information. Even when the code is encrypted (as is the case with TEE), the position of the fetched instruction is still harmful information because the execution trace of the above simple algorithm leads to a conditional evaluation and a jump (based on the condition result). Therefore, the adversary can correlate the conditional of different array positions with each other and identify that specific indexes of the array have similar properties. In other words, an adversary that sees *x* accesses to one instruction and n - x to another knows the array contains *x* odd and n - x even numbers, or vice versa.

On the other hand, leakage from data access is also harmful. Considering a BFS/DFS traversal on a graph (and even if instructionsaccess leakage is ignored), the number of times the memory location of a certain vertex is accessed is related to its degree.

Based on these two types of leakage, to achieve our goal of oblivious graph processing we first store the graph using our doublyoblivious primitives and then propose graph query algorithms that have a deterministic sequence of instruction execution and are independent of the graph data. These two techniques are complementary; the first eliminates data-access leakage and the second eliminates instruction-access leakage. We implemented this approach with OMIX++ based on hardware enclaves to store and query the graph and we call the resulting system GraphOS. Figure 4 depicts the architecture of our system. The first step involves the user uploading the input graph in encrypted form to the server. Next, the user begins the GraphOS initialization procedure to set up the hardware enclave and create the required doubly-oblivious data structure indexes. Once initialization is complete, the user can securely execute graph queries by interacting with GraphOS. Below, we first explain the architecture and basic operations of GraphOS. Then, we describe our algorithms for four fundamental graph queries in Sec 5.2. For BFS/DFS and MST we provide our own efficient versions of these algorithms that do not have instructionaccess leakage. For SSSP, we rely on the algorithm of [78].

# 5.1 GraphOS-Architecture and API

GraphOS uses OMIX++ to store the graph. It is initialized (in time O(|E| + |V|)) to contain the following key-value pairs:

- For each vertex v, we store an entry with key ("V"||v) and value (degout, degin), where "V" is a label showing this entry is for a vertex, v is the vertex id, and (degout, degin) are its degrees.
- (2) For each edge from vertex v<sub>init</sub> to vertex v<sub>trm</sub> with weight w, we store three key-value pairs:
  - This pair has key (*"EOut"*||*v<sub>init</sub>, cnt*) and value (*v<sub>trm</sub>, w*) where
     *"EOut"* is a label showing this is an outgoing edge, and *cnt* is
     the index of this edge in the outgoing edge set of *v<sub>init</sub>*.
  - This pair has key ("*EIn*"||*v*<sub>trm</sub>, *cnt*) and value (*v*<sub>init</sub>, *w*) where
     "*EIn*" is a label showing this is an outgoing edge, and *cnt* is the
     index of this edge in the incoming edge set of *v*<sub>trm</sub>.
  - This pair has key ("*E*", *v*<sub>*init*</sub>, *v*<sub>*trm*</sub>) and value (*w*, *cnt*<sub>*init*</sub>, *cnt*<sub>*trm*</sub>), where "*E*" is a label showing this is an edge.

This structure allows GraphOS to efficiently extract information in comparison to other methods, such (e.g., adjacency list). Specifically, it can determine the degree of each vertex with a single OMIX++ lookup (using the ("V"||v) key) rather than requiring a sequential scan over all edges. Additionally, adding a vertex or edge incurs no extra overhead and only requires a constant number of OMIX++ accesses. Moreover, a vertex can be easily removed by extracting its degree and removing its edges. This approach improves efficiency in large graphs with a small average degree by avoiding the need for unnecessary sequential scans over a large list of edges. Now, we present the basic procedures of GraphOS. We provide the detailed pseudocodes in Appendix E in the extended version.

**Setup.** To setup GraphOS for a graph (V, E) the client encrypts it, establishes a secure channel with TEE, attests the GraphOS enclave to ensure the authenticity of the code, and runs the enclave. Then, it sends the decryption key and other parameters needed for the setup of OMIX++. We do not assume the graph is provided in a specific key-value format, so TEE must handle this. First, it initializes a temporary OMIX++ only with vertex entries. It iterates over the list of edges, each time retrieving from OMIX++ its source and target vertices, computing the in/out-degree of each vertex, and building the key-value pairs needed for edges (as explained above). Note that doubly-oblivious primitives (OMIX++) is necessary; otherwise, setup would leak the structure of the graph. Finally, TEE discards the temporary DOMAP and runs the INITIAL-IZATION procedure of OMIX++ for all created key-value pairs. Setup performs a loop over all edges and corresponding OMIX++ Inserts  $(O(C \log^2 |E| \log^2 \log |E|)$  assuming  $|E| \ge |V|)$ . Hence its complexity is  $O(C|E|\log^3|E|)$ , dominated by the OMIX++ initialization.

We can add some auxiliary key-value pairs to improve specific graph algorithms' execution time. As per Sec 4, OMIX++ insertion is slower than lookup, due to re-balancing. Precomputing and storing certain keys during setup "converts" future OMIX++ insertions to faster OMIX++ lookup-and-set. E.g., in the BFS algorithm, we know ahead of time that all vertices will be visited. Indeed, we can create a key-value pair with a dummy value for each of them and use it to emulate queue operations by just updating their values.

**Lookup Queries.** GraphOS provides oblivious lookup queries via OMIX++. It supports the following: (i) find a vertex/edge, (ii) find an edge weight, and (iii) find the in/out-degree of a vertex. All these queries only need one OMIX++ query. For example, executing a lookup query with key "V" $||v_i||v_i|$  gives the degree of node  $v_i$ . The

overall complexity of all these queries is equal to the complexity of OMIX++ Find because they execute a single OMIX++ operation.

**Update.** To add vertex v, GraphOS adds entry ("V" || v) with value (0, 0) to OMIX++. To add edge  $(v_{init}, v_{trm}, w)$ , it first fetches the current number of incoming edges to  $v_{trm}$  (denoted by  $in_{trm}$ ) and the number of outgoing edges from *v*<sub>init</sub> (denoted by *out*<sub>init</sub>). Then, it increments the corresponding counters and writes the new values back and the new edge key-value pairs in OMIX++. To remove edge  $(v_{init}, v_{trm})$ , GraphOS has to remove the corresponding data from  $v_{init}$  and  $v_{trm}$ . It extracts the related counters of the target edge by fetching the edge counters of the initial and terminal vertices (cnt<sub>init</sub> and cnt<sub>trm</sub>) using key ("E", v<sub>init</sub>, v<sub>trm</sub>) and removes their entries from DOMAP. This invalidates the counter indexes in the two lists. We fix this by "pruning" removed entries in OMIX++ (swapping the counter value of the last edge and the deleted edge, see [53]). To remove vertex v, we first delete all incoming and outgoing edge counters with key ("V"||v). Then, we fetch all vertices connected to v via edges, and we delete said edges via the process explained above. This inherently reveals the degree of the deleted vertex, unless one is willing to pad with |V| dummy accesses.

Each of these queries needs a different number of OMIX++ accesses (e.g., adding a vertex only needs one Insert while adding an edge needs two Find and five Insert). We can eliminate this leakage by padding all queries to the maximum needed OMIX++ queries. The overall complexity of adding a vertex/edge and removing an edge is equal to  $O(C \log^2 |E| \log^2 \log |E|)$  assuming  $|E| \ge |V|$  because of their constant number of DOMAP queries. On the other hand, the complexity of vertex removal is  $O(|V| \cdot C \log^2 |E| \log^2 \log |E|)$  because in the worst case, the vertex is connected to all others.

# 5.2 Graph Queries

We now explain how four well-known graph algorithms are run in GraphOS. In particular, we consider breadth/depth-first traversal, minimum spanning tree, and single-source shortest paths. For the first three, we propose our own oblivious versions that avoid instruction-access leakage. This is done by ensuring fixed deterministic sequences of operations, entirely independent of the actual data values. For the last one, we use the algorithm of [78]. In all cases, to eliminate data-access leakage and achieve oblivious query processing that only reveals |V| and |E|, all graph accesses are via OMIX++. We note that [78] proposed an optimized oblivious DFS version that is asymptotically more efficient. However, our evaluation in Sec 6 shows that, in TEE it outperforms our version only for very dense graphs. We highlight that the required modifications in the plaintext graph algorithms are relatively small, but this is desired in oblivious algorithms since it can lead to comparably small overhead between oblivious and non-oblivious algorithms.

**BFS/DFS.** These two queries are graph traversals that load and unload vertexes to and from a queue and a stack, respectively. Oblivious versions of these data structures can be emulated in a standard manner, using a DOMAP and two index counters for the first and last item. However, textbook implementations of them still have leakage due to instruction accesses. E.g., BFS runs a double-loop over the vertices where the internal loop is over the number of neighbors each time; each time the code exits the internal loop, a different (dequeue) instruction is executed. To avoid this leakage, we

ensure our algorithm runs in a single loop using the loop-coalescing technique [78] and oblivious *Osel/Ocmp* operators. In particular, we partition the nested loop into chunks of blocks each of which corresponds to a branch. The number of execution times for each block is used for a bound for the innermost loop that contains that block and their sum represents the total number of iterations in the single-loop version. Next, we convert the nested loop into a single loop and use an extra state variable for each block to simulate the inner loop for each code block. Furthermore, the end branch statements will be converted to state change for these variables.

**Minimum Spanning Tree.** Our MST algorithm is based on the classic Kruskal [73] where edges are sorted based on their weights. Instead of running |E| DOMAP queries, we do this efficiently by obliviously sorting the edges using a copy of DOMAP blocks (to avoid data corruption in DOMAP) which are then fetched sequentially (**EList**). After this, we assign each vertex to a separate tree (in MST sub-trees) and execute an oblivious version of Kruskal's algorithm, following a similar approach as in BFS/DFS above. At a high level, checking of loop creation for the new edge in MST (which is done using a recursive function in the textbook version), is implemented by keeping the root of the subtrees in OMIX++.

**Single-Source Shortest Paths.** For SSSP, we implement MinHeapbased Dijkstra [43] with the oblivious MinHeap of Shi [100] and apply the optimization of [78] to avoid weight update operations. We combined [100] with OBLIX (instead of PathORAM) and made its operations (e.g., Insert and ExtractMin) doubly oblivious to implement a <u>doubly-oblivious MinHeap</u>. To eliminate instruction-access leakage, we use [78] with loop-coalescing optimization.

Efficiency and Privacy. The complexity of BFS/DFS and SSSP in GraphOS is  $O(C|E|\log^2 |E|\log^2 \log |E|)$  while for MST it is O(C|E| $\log |V| \log^2 |E| \log^2 \log |E|$ ) assuming that  $|E| \ge |V|$ . For comparison, OPAQUE's complexity for BFS/DFS and MST is  $O(C|V|^2 |E|)$  $\log^2 |E|$ ,  $O(C|E||V|^2 \log^2 |V|)$  and for SSSP is  $O(C|V|^3 \log^2 |V|)$  respectively, i.e., GraphOS improves the best prior results. Due to the use of OMIX++ and oblivious operators, GraphOS only leaks |V|and edges |E| when executing the above algorithms. It hides data access pattern leakage by using doubly-oblivious data structures and instruction access pattern by converting the algorithms to their doubly-oblivious versions. These doubly-oblivious algorithms use oblivious sort (e.g., Bitonic sort [15]), oblivious operators such as Osel and Ocmp to hide conditions, dummy operations to hide loops. Implementing other Graph Algorithms. In Sec 2, we explained that "Obfuscuro-like" approaches [1] can make any code doubleoblivious-pairing this with OMIX++ would improve its efficiency. Besides, we now provide general guidelines for implementing other graph algorithms in GraphOS; we focus on making the code execution trace deterministic, utilizing OMIX++ and doubly-oblivious algorithms, to achieve more efficient graph query solutions.

<u>Balance conditions</u>: We need to ensure the same number of OMIX++ accesses are executed in all branches of any condition. This is done by adding dummy read/write operations at the end of each branch, and/or making extra dummy OMIX++ accesses. Besides, conditions needs to be implemented using oblivious operators (see Sec 3). <u>Balance loops</u>: For algorithms that perform different types of operations in each loop, we need to pad the number of loop iterations to an upper bound. Also, for nested loops (when the

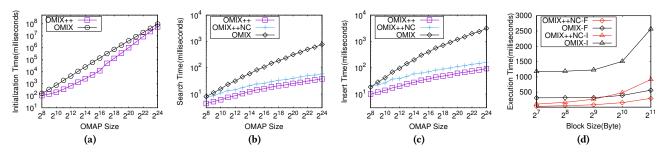


Figure 5: (a) DOMAP Initialization, (b) FIND and (c) INSERT times for variable OMAP sizes, (d) DOMAP FIND (denoted by F) and INSERT (denoted by I) time for variable block size in an OMAP with size  $2^{23}$ 

inner-loop execution depends on the outer-loop, e.g., BFS), the loopcoalescing technique [78], i.e., rewriting the code as a single loop, can improve efficiency. <u>Use of OMIX++ or oblivious data accesses</u>: Input data and intermediate results must either be loaded in OMIX++ or accessed obliviously (e.g., via a sequential scan).

#### 6 EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

We evaluate the performance of OMIX++ and GraphOS and compare it with state-of-art competitors. In our experiments, for OMIX++ we consider variable synthetic datasets with total size between  $2^8$ -2<sup>24</sup> and evaluate it in three real-world applications. For GraphOS, we consider variable random synthetic graphs with size (|V| +|E|) between  $2^8 - 2^{18}$ . Note that the security property of oblivious graph processing means that performance does not depend on the structure of the graph (just |V| and |E|). That's the reason why we do not need to repeat our experiments for real datasets. We evaluate GraphOS and OPAQUE for BFS/DFS, MST, and SSSP on three different graphs with variable denseness: (i) very dense  $(|E| \approx |V|^2)$ , (ii) sparse (|V| = 0.13|E|), and (iii) very sparse (|V| = 0.13|E|)0.8|E|). Although we measured the performance of GraphOS over all our test graph sizes, we ignored OPAQUE execution time for sizes which would take several days/months. In addition to OPAQUE, we compared GraphOS execution time with oblivious code/data retrieval methods based on DOMAP such as Obfuscuro [1], provided a comparison between GraphOS and Liu et al.'s [78] DFS algorithm, and evaluated a distributed version of GraphOS.

**Experimental Setup.** We use C++-11, Intel-SGXv1 (SDK v2.4), and SGX OpenSSL extension [105] for cryptographic operations in our experiments. We ran our experiments on a machine with an eight-core Intel Xeon E-2174G 3.8GHz processor with SGX support (AES-NI enabled), 64GB RAM, 1TB SSD, and Ubuntu16.04 LTS. We limited the enclave's trusted memory to 94MB. Unless otherwise noted, the DORAM block size is set to 128 bytes and C = 4 blocks/bucket. We report the average of 10 executions (standard deviation  $\sigma < 2\%$  across all experiments). In all experiments, first we warm up DORAM/DOMAP data structures with 10K dummy operations to reach the steady state of their performance. Furthermore, in all setup experiments, we included remote attestation time (excluding Intel server communication) which takes less than 50ms.

**Implementation.** We implemented OMIX++ as well as OMIX for comparison. Since the code of [83] is not "fully" doubly oblivious (specifically the tree rotation needed for their insert operation is

implemented non-obliviously), we had to write our own implementation. For oblivious graph processing, we implemented GraphOS using OMIX++ and our SGX-based implementation of Shi's Min-Heap [100]. The latter operates in the client-server model, therefore we replaced its ORAM with OBLIX. In addition to this, we made all its client-side operations (e.g., insert and extract-min) doubly oblivious. For GraphOS, we applied additional optimizations to the graph query execution process. E.g., for BFS/DFS queries, since we know that all vertices will be placed in the queue/stack eventually, we put their corresponding key-values (where the value is set to NULL) in the initial key-value list of GraphOS setup. This removes the need for lots of insert operations in the query execution. Such an optimization lead to 40% improvement in BFS/DFS execution time because we have removed the need for complex oblivious rotation. For OPAQUE experiments, we extended its released code [123] to support the necessary graph operations and implemented the graph algorithms discussed in Sec 5.2. In particular, since OPAQUE does not support some of the needed operators such as encrypted outer joins and encrypted union, we implemented their equivalent operations with the supported operators. All our implementations are publicly available in [51]. They are the first open-source doubly oblivious libraries and may find use in other applications.

#### 6.1 Doubly-Oblivious Data Structure (DOMAP)

First, we examine the performance of our PathORAM-based<sup>3</sup> doublyoblivious data structure. Figure 5(a) shows the setup time of OMIX++ and OMIX. In OMIX++, the main overhead is the OBLIX initialization– the AVL tree construction takes a small portion of the time, e.g., it takes 983s to initialize OBLIX with size 2<sup>20</sup> while the AVL tree only takes 31s. Recall that OMIX does not provide an explicit oblivious initialization, other than the "naive" process of OBLIX setup, followed by inserting key-value pairs one-by-one. Throughout all our experiments, OMIX++ setup is 1.5–11× faster than OMIX.

Figure 5(b), (c) show the INSERT/FIND execution times for variable DOMAP sizes. We separated these two experiments due to their different number of memory accesses (because of AVL balancing). Our evaluation shows that OMIX++ *clearly* outperforms OMIX. This is due to (i) the individual eviction policy and (ii) the path-caching

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Alternatively, DOMAP can potentially be built from other ORAMs. However, ORAM schemes that need periodic rebuilds (e.g., hierarchical solutions [54]) are inherently less practical than our OMIX++ when run in TEE, due to the high cost of making the rebuild doubly oblivious. Moreover, deamortization would make this even more expensive as it needs maintaining/accessing multiple ORAM copies, and executing polylogarithmically many steps each time.

Operation	System	Time (seconds) size $(2^{12}/2^{18})$
setup+RA	GraphOS	99 / 19566
	Opaque	0.9 / 13
look-up	GraphOS	0.01 / 0.02
vertex/edge	Opaque	1 / 1.9
add vertex	GraphOS	0.02 / 0.06
add vertex	Opaque	0.8 / 8.2
add adra	GraphOS	0.3 / 0.6
add edge	Opaque	0.8 / 8.2
remove vertex	GraphOS	0.07 / 0.15
remove vertex	Opaque	0.7 / 4.4
romovo odro	GraphOS	0.3 / 0.7
remove edge	Opaque	0.7 / 4.4

 Table 1: GraphOS and OPAQUE basic graph query benchmark

 for two different graph sizes (RA denotes remote attestation).

mechanism we deploy, as explained in Sec 4.1. In particular, OMIX++ searches are  $1.8-20\times$  faster than OMIX (e.g., for  $N = 2^{24}$  the former takes 37ms and the latter 767ms) and insertions are  $2-34\times$  faster (e.g., for  $N = 2^{24}$  the former takes 92ms and the latter > 3s).

To separately measure the effect of these on OMIX++, we disabled the cache mechanism in a new experiment (denoted by OMIX++NCin Figure 5(b,c)). This shows the cache is more impactful for small DOMAP sizes. Besides, the early eviction strategy led top major improvement for larger DOMAP. E.g., for  $2^{24}$ , OMIX++NC insert is 19.4× faster than OMIX and OMIX++ is  $1.7\times$  faster than OMIX++NC. This follows since the underlying OBLIX eviction of OMIX becomes the bottleneck for large N (ignoring constants, it takes  $O(\log^4 N)$ vs.  $O(\log^2 Nlog^2 logN)$  for OMIX++). Overall, the main source of improvement of OMIX++ is the individual eviction policy (also confirmed by our variable block-size experiment in Sec 6.4).

**Real-world applications of** OMIX++. Next, we compare the performance of OMIX++ with OMIX in three real-world applications. *Private contact discovery in Signal*. Signal [8] makes a private contact discovery by searching the given contact list inside the Signal database within the trusted hardware. To prevent access pattern leakage, a naive (baseline) solution is to do several sequential scans instead of direct accesses. We executed an experiment to measure the improvement of using OMIX++ in this application. We set N (number of users) to 128M and the block size to 160 bytes. Our results show that using OMIX++ improves the Signal performance  $6.3 \times$  for m = 100 where m is the size of the user's contact list and N = 128M (while OMIX only provides 30% improvement). Furthermore, for the incremental contact discovery (m = 1), using OMIX++ gives up to three orders of magnitude improvement while OMIX provides two orders of magnitude improvement.

Anonymizing Google's Key Transparency. Google KT [110] provides integrity in the public-key look-up use case. To do that, it maintains a Merkle tree over all public keys and shares the root of the tree with the users. However, it does not provide anonymity and the server can identify the identity of the target user. A naive solution for providing anonymity is to do several sequential scans to hide the access pattern (we consider this solution as the baseline approach similar to [83]). A more clever solution is to use DOMAP and access these keys through this oblivious data structure. We executed an experiment and used N = 20M public keys with block size 256 bytes where N is the number of keys in the Merkle tree (similar to [83]). According to our results, for small N, OMIX++ approach is 126% faster than the baseline approach while OMIX approach is only 9% faster (E.g., the baseline, OMIX++, and OMIX approaches take 904ms,56ms, and 830ms respectively). On the other hand, as N increases, our approach has a significantly lower cost. For example, for N = 40M, our approach is  $32 \times$  faster than baseline while OMIX approach is only 2× faster. E.g., the baseline approach, Оміх, and OMIX++ approaches take 1992ms, 996ms, and 61ms respectively. Searchable Encryption. We compared OMIX and OMIX++ performance for searchable encryption [36, 52, 69, 104] using the entire Enron email dataset [30] consisting of 528K emails. After keyword extraction and filtering words that contained non-alphabetic characters, we achieved 38M key-value pairs. We initialized DOMAPs using key-values with a block size of 200 bytes. We measured the search and insertion time of the inverted index over the above keyvalue pairs. According to our experimental results, the search time per key-value pair using Оміх++ is 17× faster than Оміх. On the other hand, the insertion time of OMIX++ is 25× faster than OMIX.

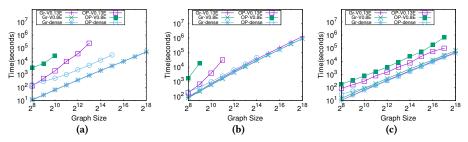
# 6.2 Basic Graph Operations

We report the performance of basic operations (setup, searching/adding/removing a vertex/edge) in GraphOS and OPAQUE in Table 1. Setup Time. Overall, OPAQUE has a faster setup than GraphOS. E.g., it takes 13s to setup a graph with size 2<sup>18</sup> for OPAQUE but 19566s for GraphOS. This should come as no surprise since GraphOS has to build oblivious indexes so that later it achieves more efficient query execution. On the other hand, we can postpone the oblivious index creation to query execution time (for BFS/DFS, MST, etc.), using the idea of adaptive indexing from plaintext databases [4, 64]. Somewhat surprisingly, this (initializing GraphOS on-the-fly and executing the query) is still significantly faster than executing queries in an already set-up OPAQUE, as we show in Sec 6.4. Search/Update Times. Accessing a vertex/edge in GraphOS is significantly faster (95-150×) than OPAQUE as it only requires a DOMAP access (poly-logarithmic search time) while OPAQUE must execute a sequential scan over the whole vertex/edge encrypted table for obliviousness. E.g., for graph size 2<sup>18</sup> GraphOS requires 0.02s and OPAQUE 1.9s-clearly this gap increases for bigger graphs. Similar observations hold for updates, i.e., GraphOS is 2.6-13.6× faster in adding/removing an edge and 2.4-136× faster in adding/re-

faster in adding/removing an edge and 2.4–136× faster in adding/removing a vertex. Adding an edge in GraphOS takes more time than adding a vertex as it takes multiple DOMAP accesses (to update adjacent vertex information) and likewise for vertex removal.

# 6.3 Graph Query Evaluation

**BFS/DFS.** Figure 6(a) shows the execution time of BFS/DFS for variable graph sizes |V| + |E|. As expected, there is a notable gap in performance between the two systems, e.g., OPAQUE takes more than 7.5h to run BFS/DFS on a very sparse graph (|V| = 0.8|E|) with size 1024, while GraphOS runs in 67s. For graph sizes  $2^8-2^{15}$ , GraphOS is 6–410× faster than OPAQUE. Experiments with bigger sizes for OPAQUE were omitted as they would require several days or weeks—it is clear that GraphOS would become orders of magnitude



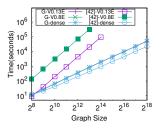


Figure 6: Execution time of (a) Breadth First Search/Depth First Search, (b) MST (Kruskal), (c) SSSP (Dijkstra) for variable graph sizes (|V| + |E|).

Figure 8: DFS of [78] vs. our DFS for variable graph sizes

faster. This agrees with its achieved asymptotic improvement of  $O(V^2/\log^2 \log E)$  over OPAQUE. Recall that this improvement in performance is accompanied by strictly less leakage. GraphOS only reveals |V| and |E|, whereas OPAQUE reveals the number of vertexes at each distance from the source, unless it uses worst-case padding, making it up to five orders of magnitude slower than GraphOS.

**Minimum Spanning Tree (Kruskal).** Figure 6(b) shows the execution time for MST. The comparison between the two systems has similar characteristics as for BFS/DFS. GraphOS is  $1.4-86\times$  faster in graphs with size  $2^8 - 2^{14}$  (e.g., it takes 212s for graph size 512 while OPAQUE takes 5h). It is clear that the gap can again increase arbitrarily, as also indicated by the asymptotic difference. Unlike the case for BFS/DFS, both systems only reveal |V| and |E|.

**Single Source Shortest Path (Dijkstra)** Figure 6 (c) shows the execution time of SSSP. Similar to the above cases, GraphOS outperforms OPAQUE in executing Dijkstra. E.g., GraphOS is  $1-22\times$  faster for sizes up to  $2^{17}$ . Furthermore, GraphOS only reveals |V| and |E|, whereas OPAQUE trivially reveals the number of neighbours of each vertex (again, eliminating this leakage of OPAQUE would require tremendously expensive worst-case loop-padding (|V|).

# 6.4 Additional Experiments

**Variable block-size DOMAP.** To evaluate the effect of block size in OMIX++, we measured the Find/Insert time varying the block size betwenn 128-2048 bytes while fixing the size to  $2^{23}$  (Figure 5(d)). For fairness, we disabled the path-cache of OMIX++, as this can be used in both schemes. As shown, OMIX++ clearly outperforms OMIX for all block sizes, both for Insert (I) and Find (F). Concretely OMIX++ with disabled path-cache is  $1.9-10.6\times$  faster in Find and  $2.8-10.6\times$  faster in Insert, across all block sizes. Since path-cache is disabled, this is solely due to our individual eviction strategy.

**Oblivious vs. textbook graph algorithms.** Our graph algorithms have deterministic execution traces at the cost of additional "dummy" operations. To measure this overhead, we compared them with running their "textbook" versions, replacing data accesses with DOMAP ones in both cases. For BFS/DFS the overhead for our tested graphs is  $3.5\times-4.98\times$ . This follows directly from the pseudocode: textbook BFS/DFS makes 2|V| + |E| DOMAP accesses, whereas ours makes 5(|V| + |E|). For dense graphs this is close to  $5\times$ , whereas for very sparse ones it is close to  $2.5\times$ . The gap for our MST is  $1.2\times-8.5\times$ . As a point of comparison, Obfuscuro [1] eliminates leakage from instruction accesses by loading code in doubly-oblivious storage and reports slowdowns of  $16-231\times$ , for simpler algorithms.

**Comparison with the DFS of [78].** Liu et al. [78] proposed a DFS with deterministic execution for MPC applications, optimized for dense graphs. Although it is more efficient asymptotically, our evaluation in the TEE setting, and compared it with our DFS (Figure 8), shows that [78] is faster only for very dense graphs (0.9–2.5×). For more sparse graphs, ours is faster 0.8–374× increasingly so for larger sizes, due to fewer untrusted memory accesses.

**Distributed GraphOS.** We also tested the performance of GraphOS implemented in a distributed manner. Due to space limitations, the details can be found in Appendix F in the extended version. Our experimental results show that distributed GraphOS can outperform (an idealized distributed version of) OPAQUE for BFS and SSSP.

**Integrating OPAQUE and GraphOS.** We also evaluated an "integrated" approach of OPAQUE with GraphOS, following a recent trend from the database community which combines in one system the benefits of relational and graph databases (e.g., [120]). We store the graph in OPAQUE in two relational encrypted tables for vertices and edges, and we execute complex graph queries by initializing GraphOS on-the-fly and running these queries with it to minimize leakage. Notably, this approach outperforms OPAQUE and achieves very similar speed-ups with those presented in Sec 6.3 for BFS (2–161×), MST (1–42×), and SSSP (0.8–9×). E.g., for a graph of size  $2^{12}$  running BFS, MST, and SSSP takes  $0.9 + 99 + 368 \approx 468s$ ,  $0.9 + 99 + 4386 \approx 4486s$ , and  $0.9 + 99 + 356 \approx 456s$  while in OPAQUE it takes  $0.9+37328 \approx 37329s$ ,  $0.9+6429 \approx 6430s$ , and  $0.9+1462 \approx 1463s$ , respectively (0.9s is for OPAQUE setup and 99s is for GraphOS setup).

# 7 CONCLUSION

We proposed GraphOS, a system for oblivious graph processing based on trusted hardware. It eliminates leakage from memory accesses for graph data via doubly-oblivious data structures and for instruction fetching via algorithms that have data-independent, fixed execution trace. Compared to previous works, GraphOS achieves less leakage (only the number of edges and vertexes in the graph, and for each query its type and response size). At the same time, it outperforms previous solutions both concretely and asymptotically. That said, although GraphOS is the fastest existing system for oblivious graph processing, it is still far from practical (the non-private version of these algorithms may take < 1s to run, whereas GraphOS may take several hours). We hope this work can motivate further research and new results in this area, whereas our doubly-oblivious primitive may find other applications beyond graphs.

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