

A Solution to the Network Challenges of  
Data Recovery in Erasure-coded  
Distributed Storage Systems:  
A Study on the Facebook Warehouse Cluster



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H. Kuang, D. Borthakur, K. Ramchandran

# Outline

- Introduction: Erasure coding in data centers
  - Low storage, high fault-tolerance
  - High download & disk IO during recovery
- Measurements from Facebook warehouse cluster in production
- Proposed alternative: Piggybacked-RS codes
  - Same storage overhead & fault tolerance
  - 30% reduction in download & disk IO

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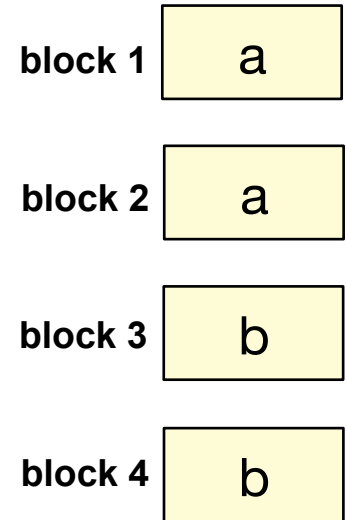
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# Need for Redundant Storage

- Frequent unavailability in data-centers
  - commodity components fail frequently
  - software glitches, maintenance shutdowns, power failures
- Redundancy gives more **reliability and availability**

# Popular approach: Replication

- Multiple copies of data across machines
- E.g., GFS, HDFS store 3 replicas by default
- Typically stored across **different racks**



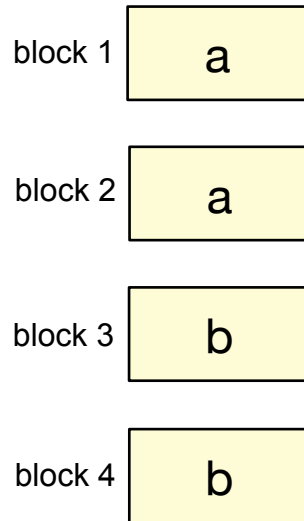
a, b: data blocks

# Petabyte Scale data: Replication expensive

- Moderately sized data: storage is cheap  
⇒ replication viable
- Multiple tens of PBs  
⇒ aggregate storage no longer cheap  
⇒ replication is expensive

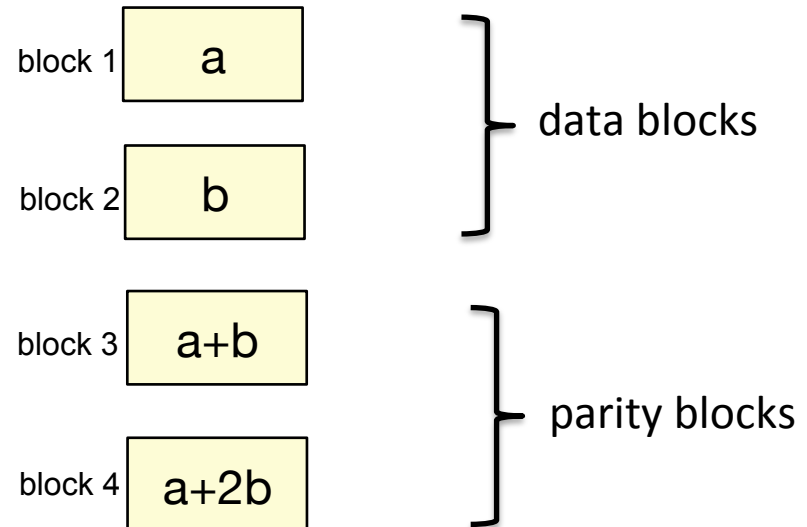
# Erasure Codes

## Replication



Redundancy 2x

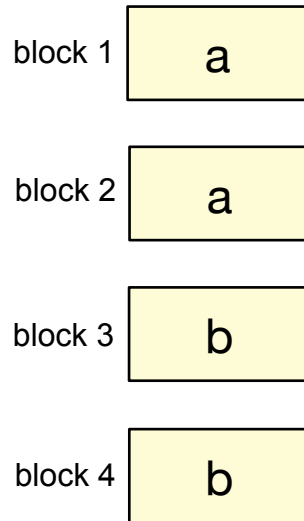
## Reed-Solomon (RS) code



2x

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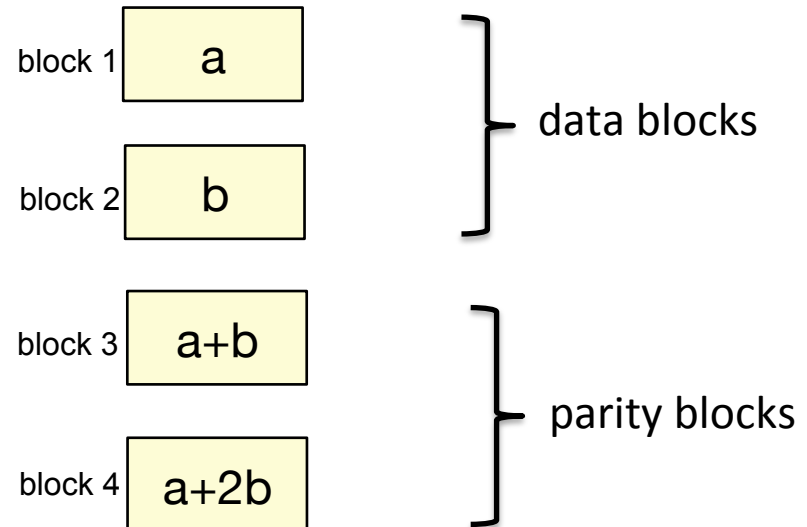
## Replication



Redundancy 2x

First order comparison: tolerates any one failure

## Reed-Solomon (RS) code



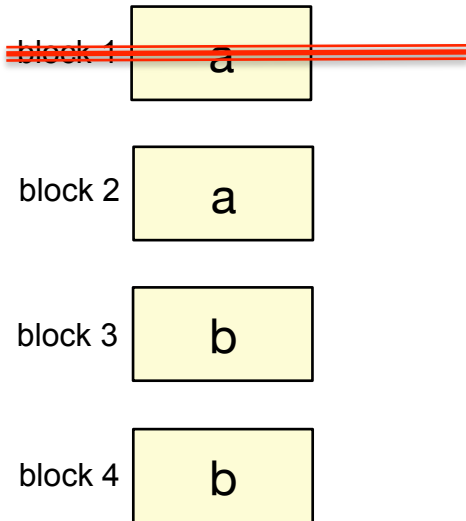
2x

tolerates any two failures



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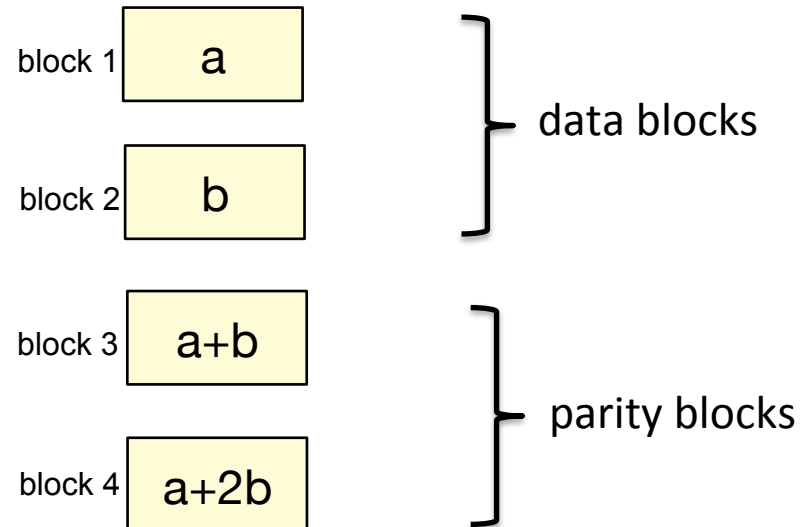
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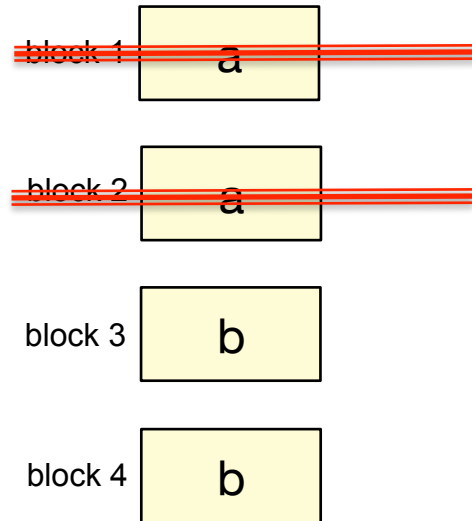


2x

tolerates any two failures

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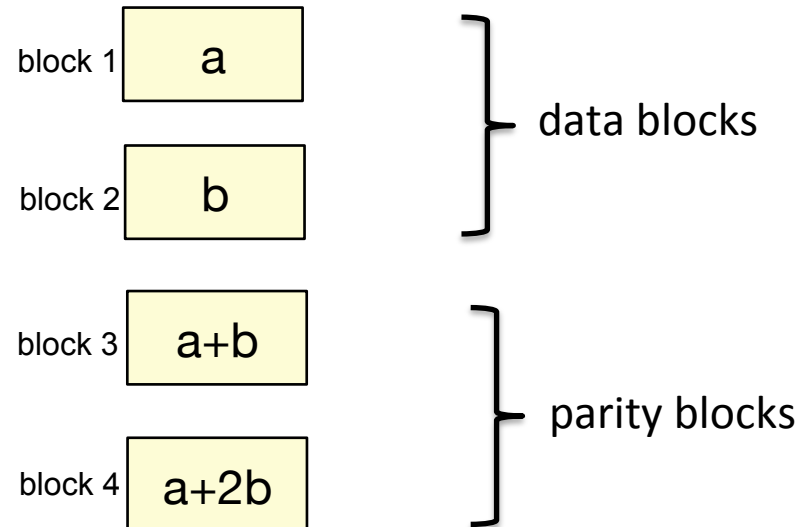
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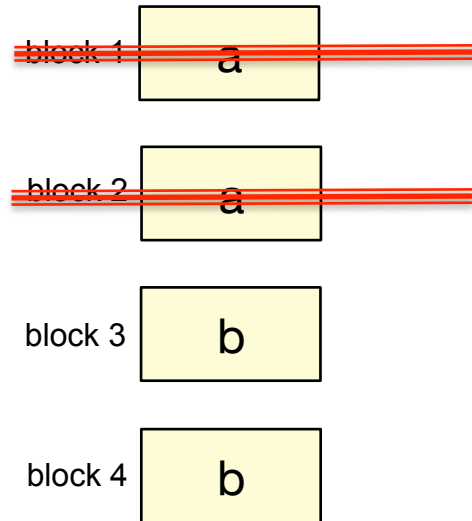


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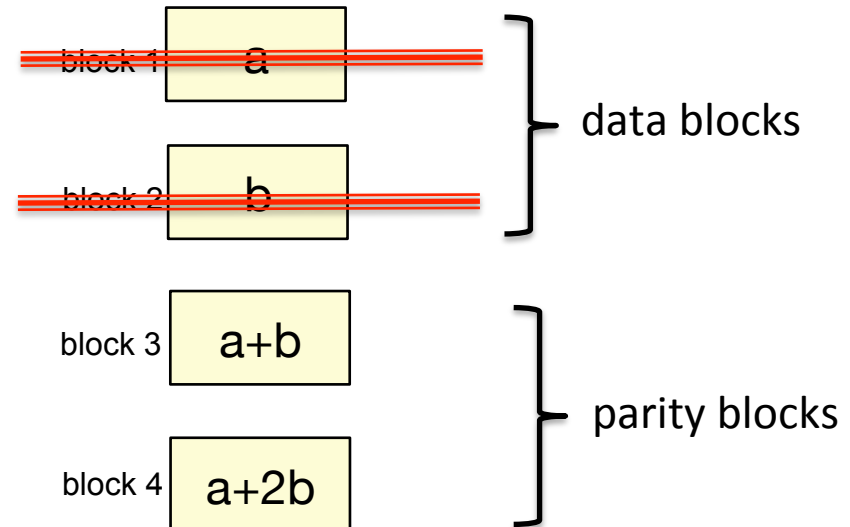
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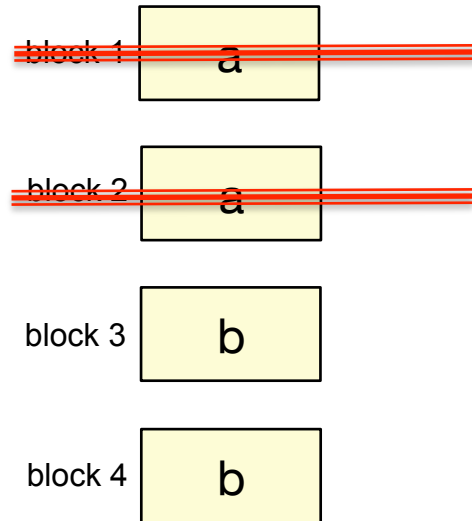


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# Erasure Codes

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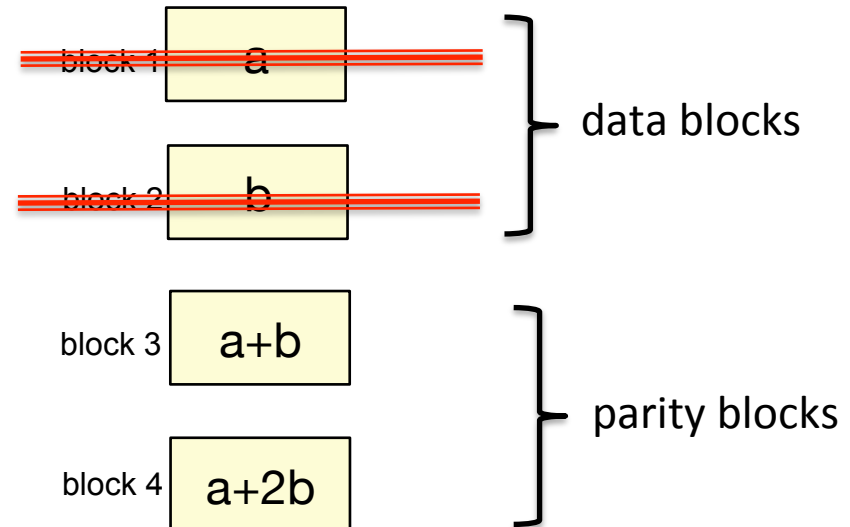


Redundancy 2x

First order comparison: tolerates any one failure

In general: lower MTDL,  
high storage requirement

## Reed-Solomon (RS) code



2x

tolerates any two failures

order of magnitude higher MTDL  
with much lesser storage

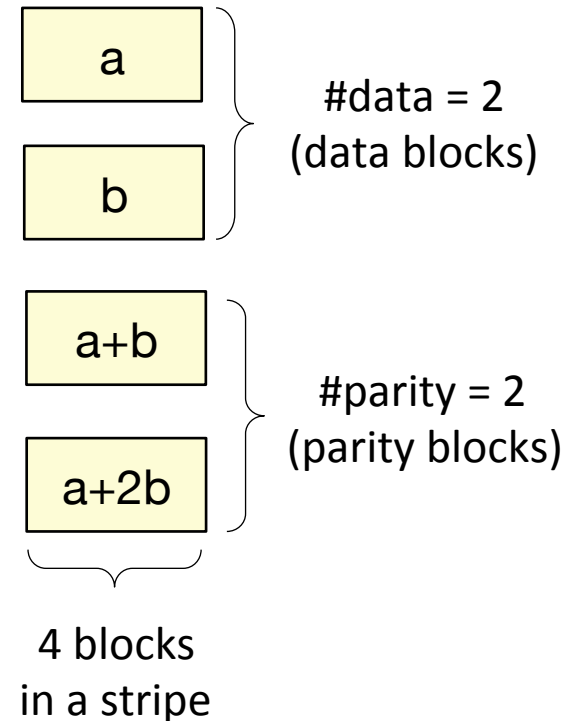
# Erasure Codes

Using RS codes instead of 3-replication on less-frequently accessed data has led to **savings of multiple Petabytes** in the Facebook Warehouse cluster

# Reed-Solomon (RS) Codes

- (**#data**, **#parity**) RS code:
  - tolerates failure of any **#parity** blocks
  - these (**#data** + **#parity**) blocks constitute a “**stripe**”
- Facebook warehouse cluster uses a (10, 4) RS code

Example: (2, 2) RS code



# Why RS codes ?

- **Maximum possible fault-tolerance for storage overhead**
  - storage-capacity optimal
  - “maximum-distance-separable (MDS)” (in coding theory parlance)
- **Flexibility in choice of parameters**
  - Supports any #data and #parity

# Why RS codes ?

- **Maximum possible fault-tolerance for storage overhead**
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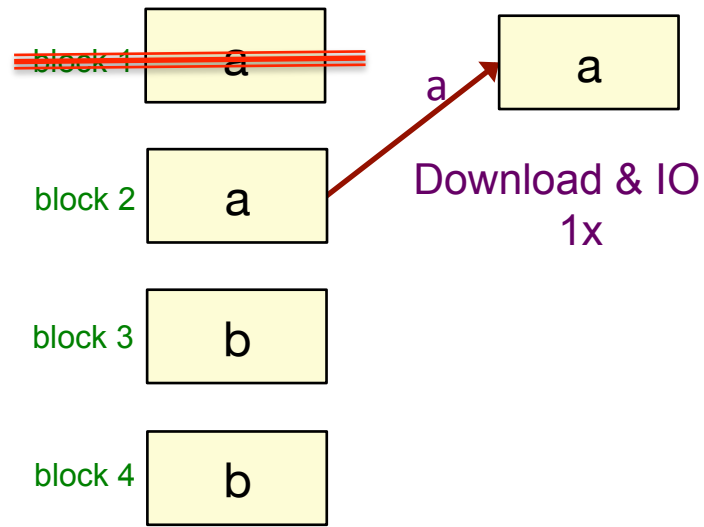
However...

**result in increased download and disk IO during data recovery**



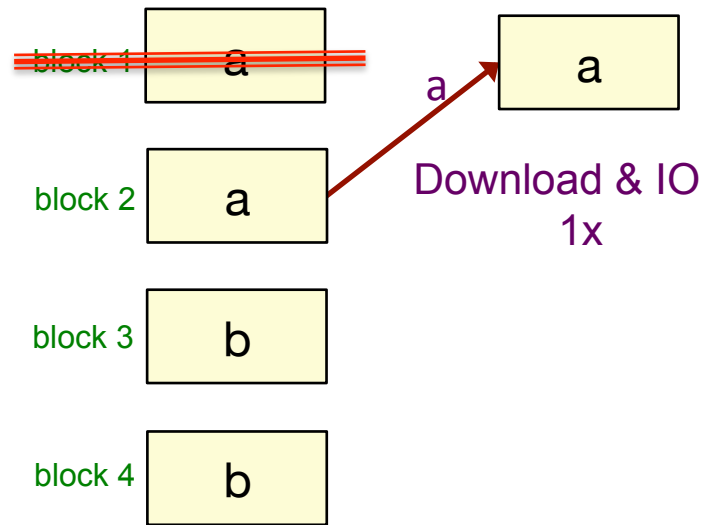
# Data Recovery: Increased download & disk IO

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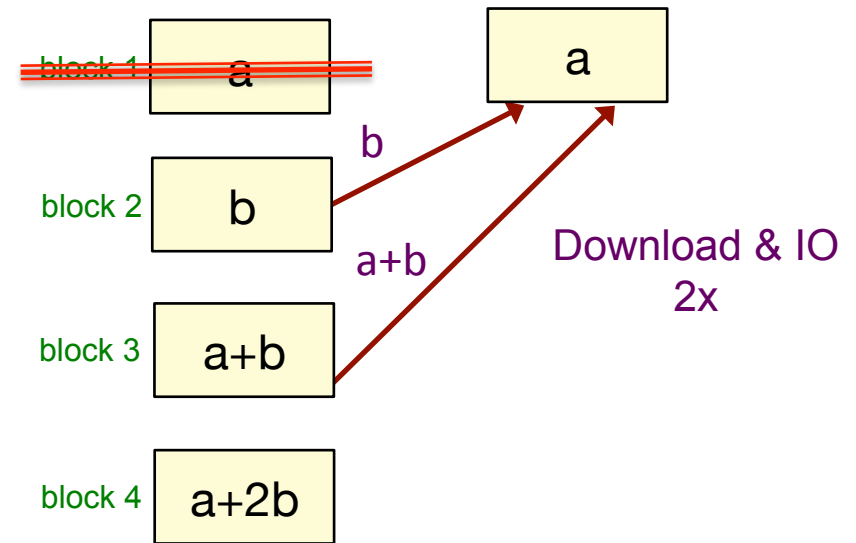


# Data Recovery: Increased download & disk IO

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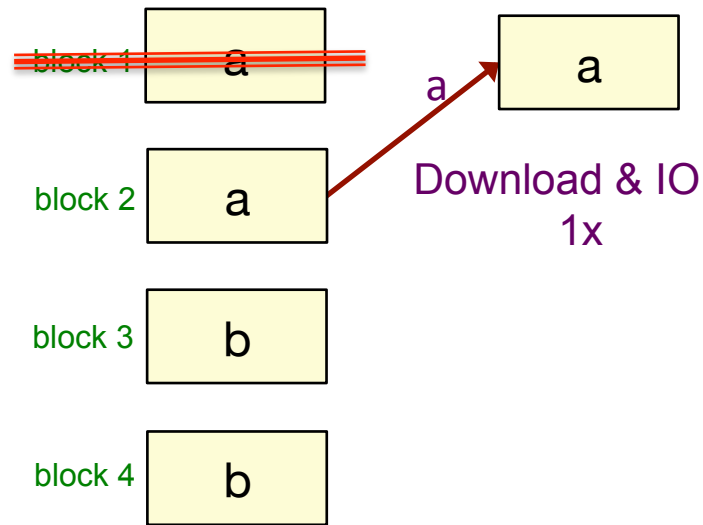


## Reed-Solomon code

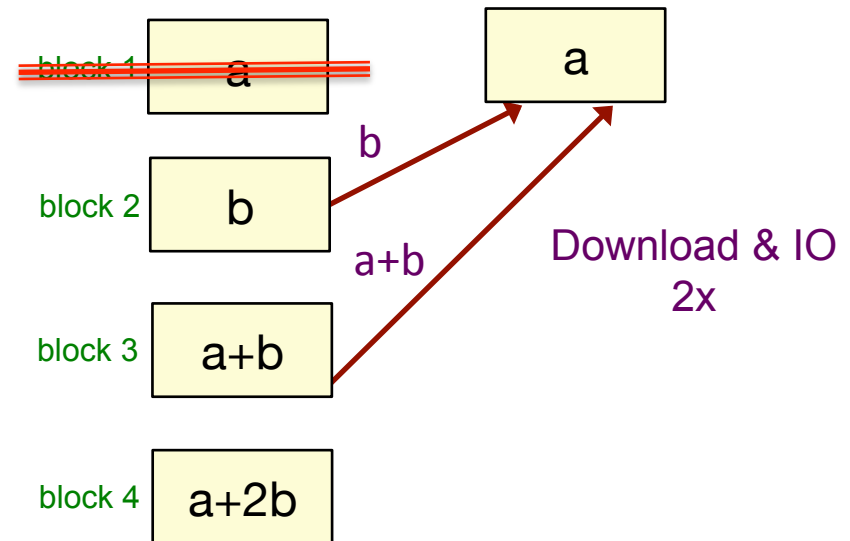


# Data Recovery: Increased download & disk IO

## Replication



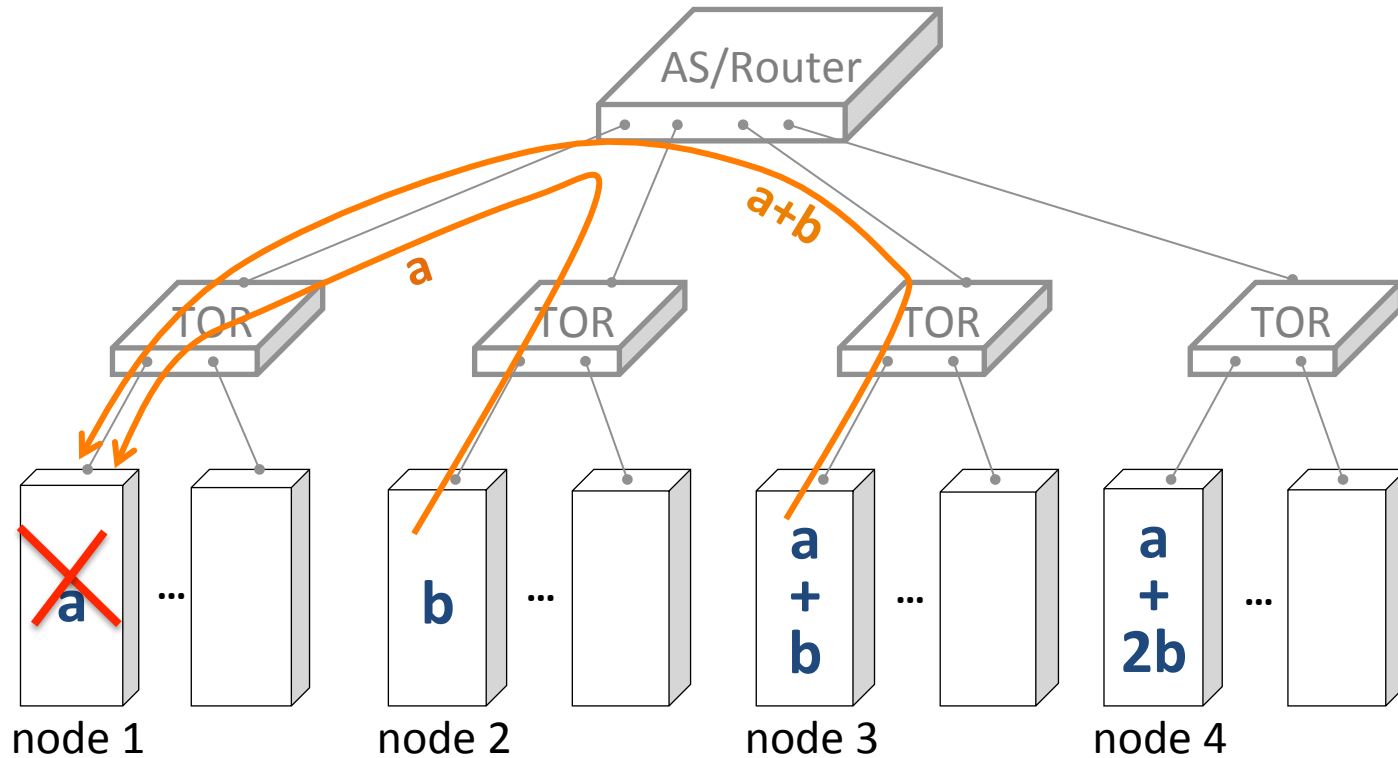
## Reed-Solomon code



In general...

**Download & IO required = #data x (size of data to be recovered)**

# Data Recovery: Burden on TOR switches



Burdens the already oversubscribed  
Top-of-Rack and higher level switches

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# Brief System Description

- HDFS cluster with multiple thousands of nodes
- Multiple tens of PBs and growing
- Data immutable until deleted

**Reducing storage requirements is of high importance**

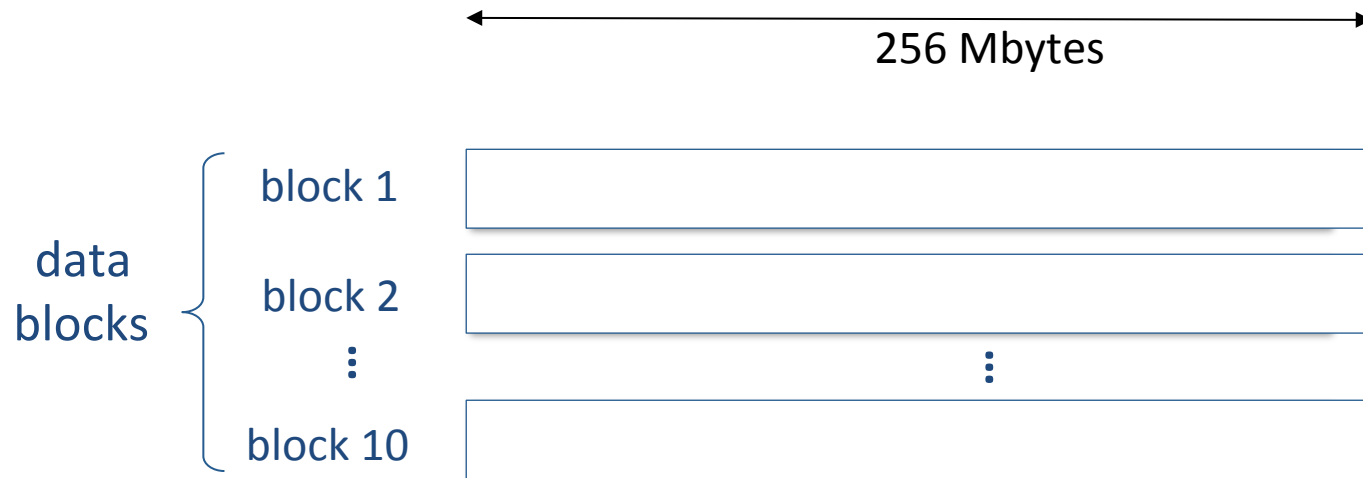
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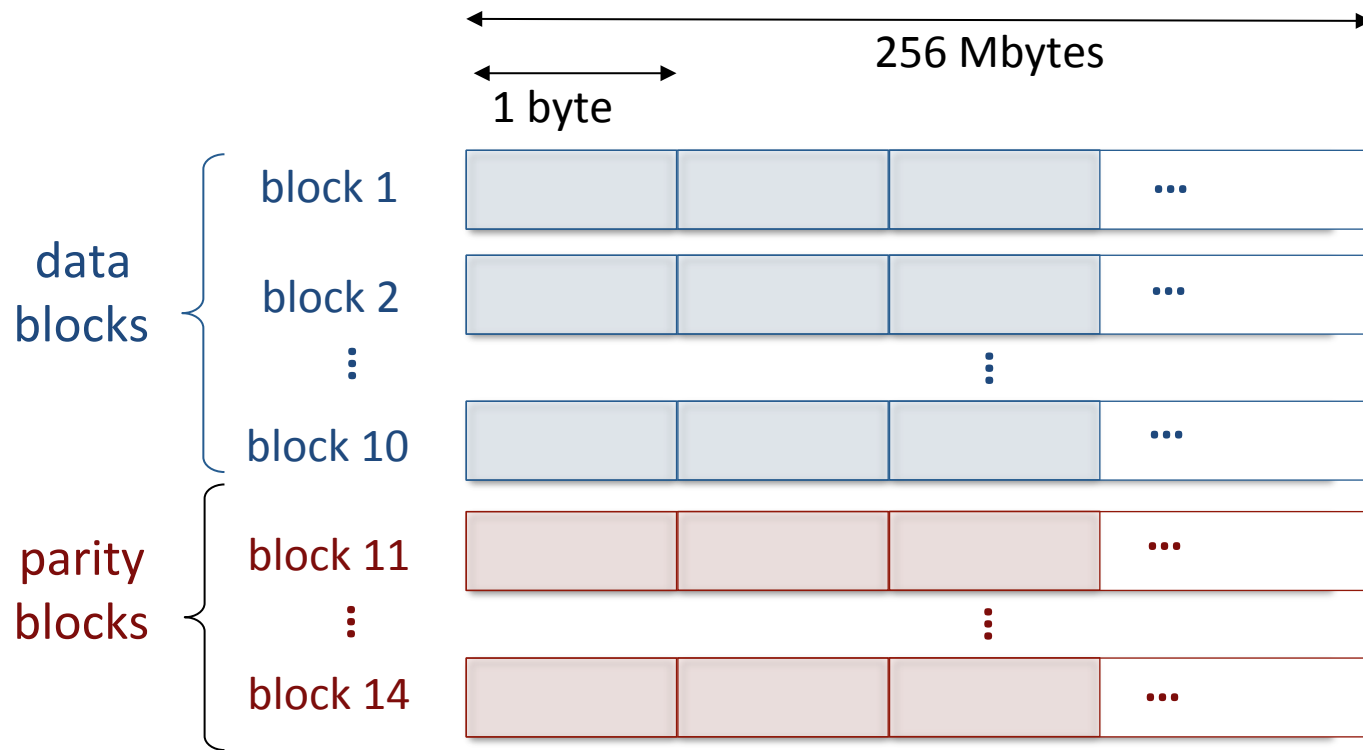
- Uses (10, 4) RS code to reduce storage requirements
  - on less-frequently accessed data
- **Multiple PBs of RS coded data**

# Brief System Description



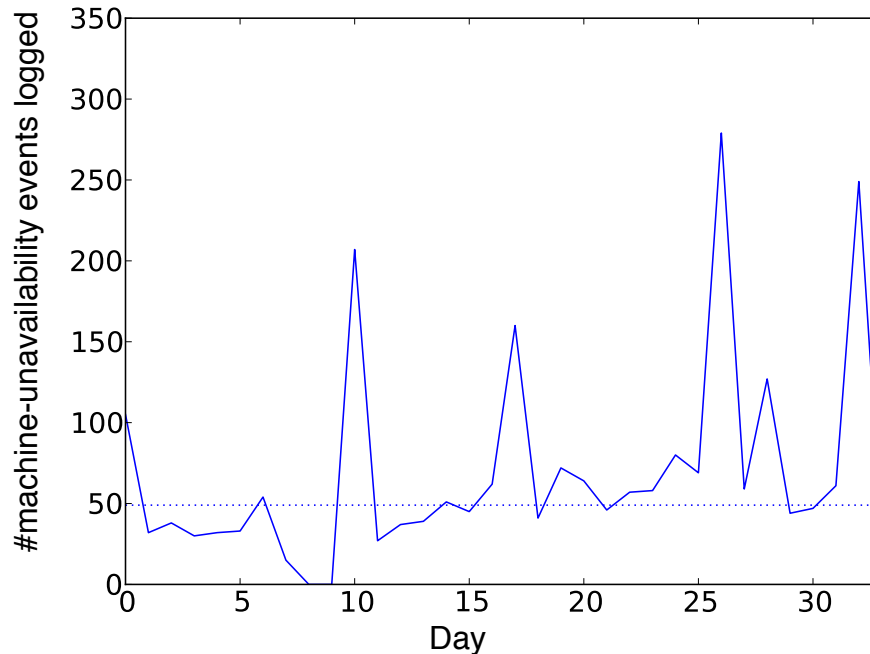


# Brief System Description



# Machine Unavailability Events

- From HDFS Name-Node logs
- Logged when no heart-beat for > 15min
- Blocks marked unavailable, periodic recovery process



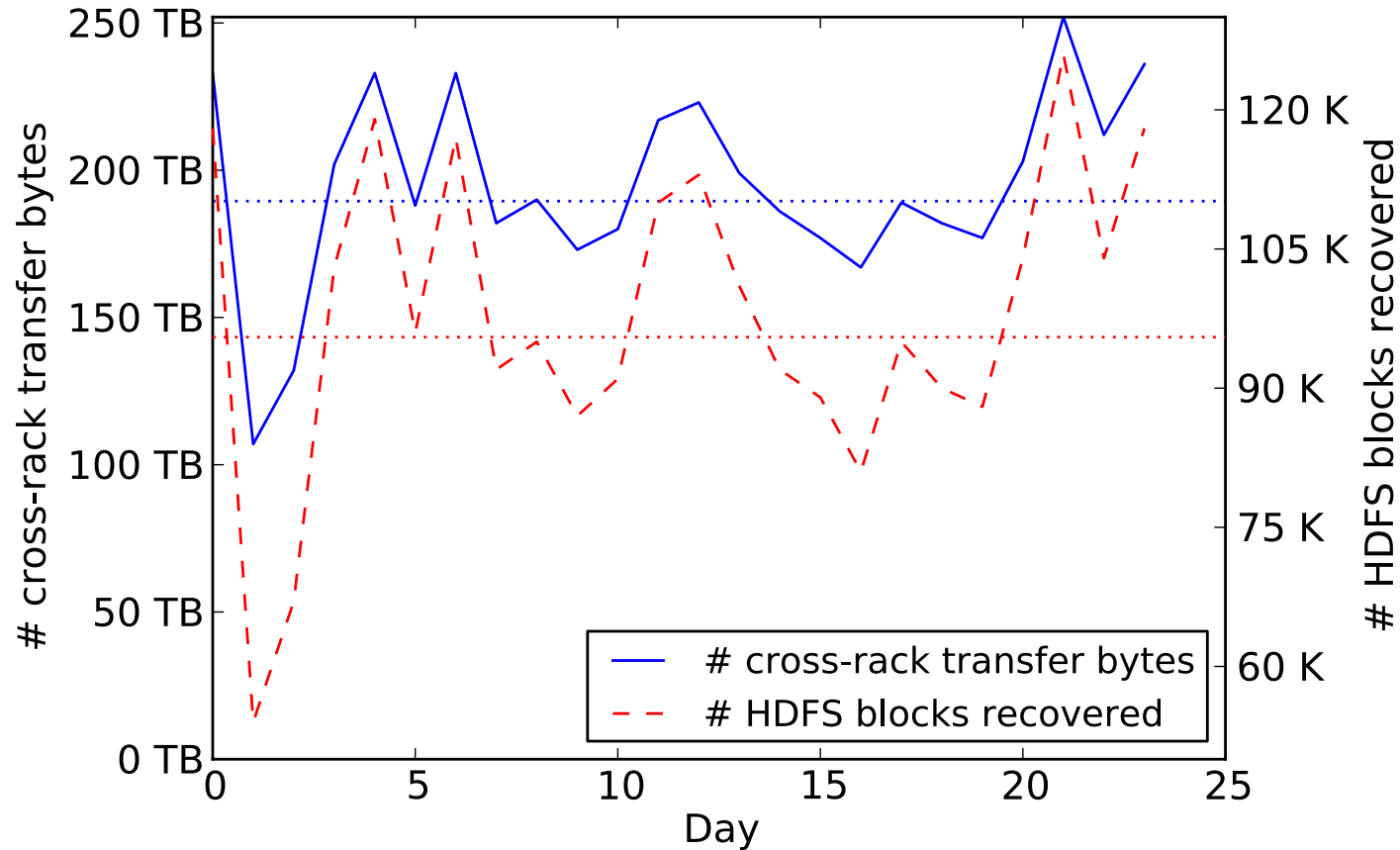
Median of  $\approx 50$  machine-unavailability events logged per day

# Missing blocks per stripe

# blocks missing in stripe	% of stripes with missing blocks
1	98.08
2	1.87
3	0.036
4	$9 \times 10^{-6}$
$\geq 5$	$9 \times 10^{-9}$

Dominant scenario: **Single** block recovery

# #Blocks Recovered & Cross-rack Transfers



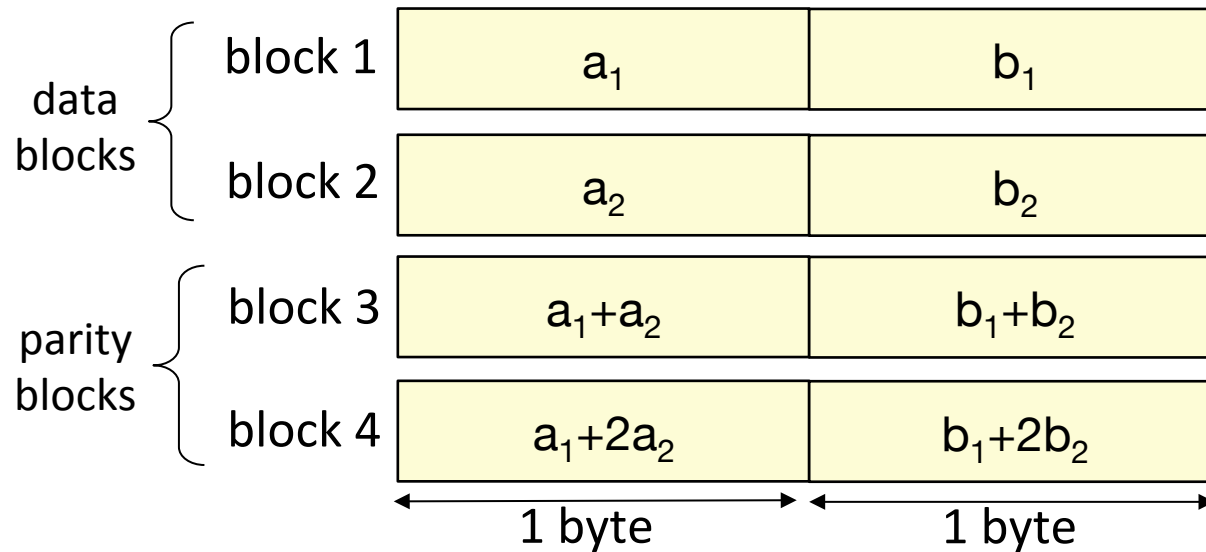
- Median of **180 TB** transferred **across racks** per day for recovery operations
- Around **5 times** that under 3-replication

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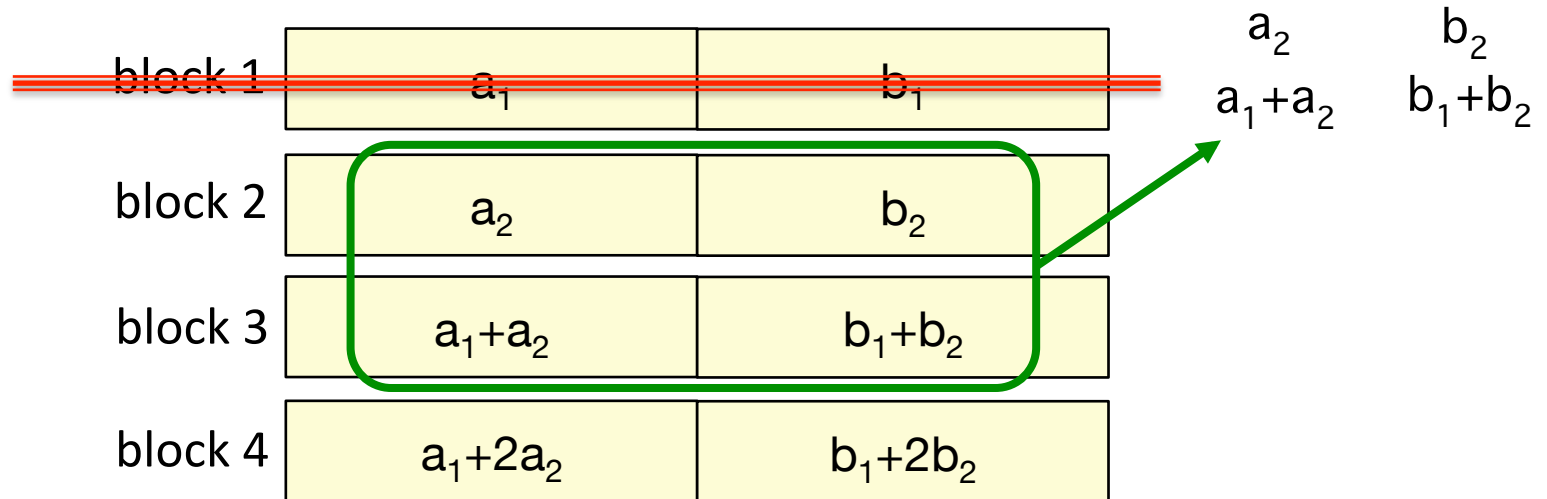
# Piggybacking: Toy Example

Step 1: Take a (2, 2) Reed-Solomon code



# Piggybacking: Toy Example

(In (2,2) RS code: recovery download & IO = 4 bytes)



# Piggybacking: Toy Example

Step 2: Add 'piggybacks' to parity nodes

block 1	$a_1$	$b_1$
block 2	$a_2$	$b_2$
block 3	$a_1+a_2$	$b_1+b_2$
block 4	$a_1+2a_2$	$b_1+2b_2+a_1$

**No additional storage!**



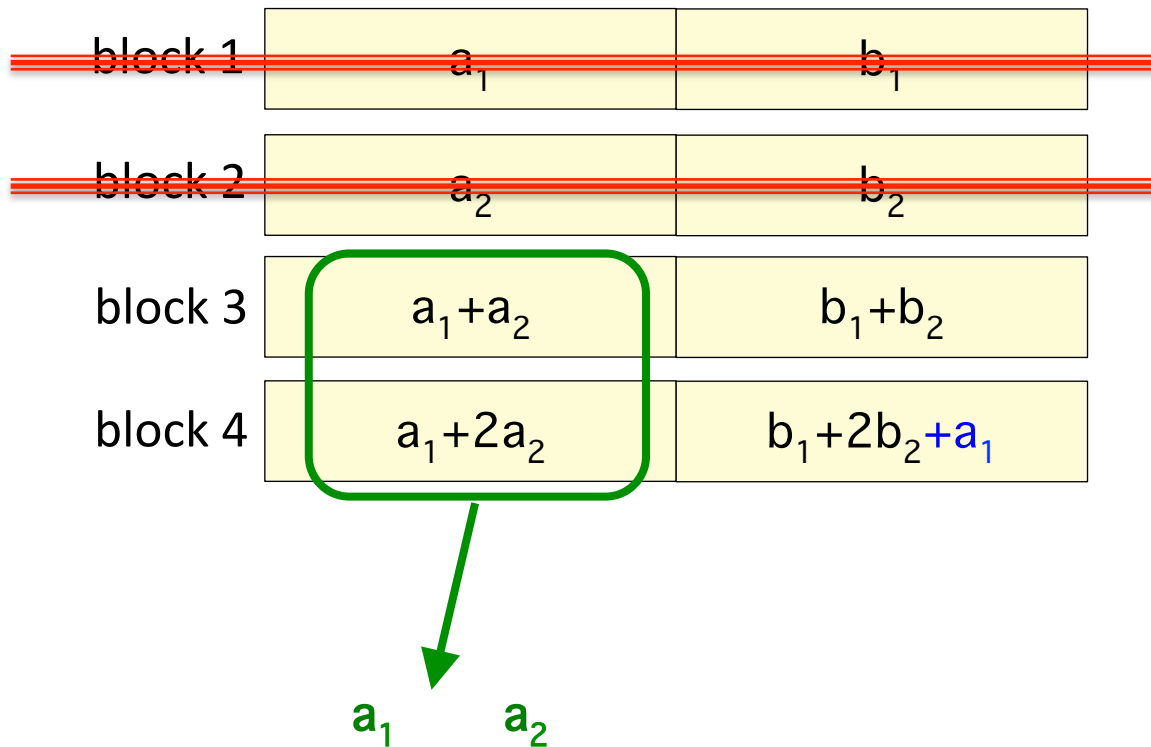
# Fault-Tolerance (toy example)

Same fault tolerance as RS code:  
can tolerate failure of any 2 nodes

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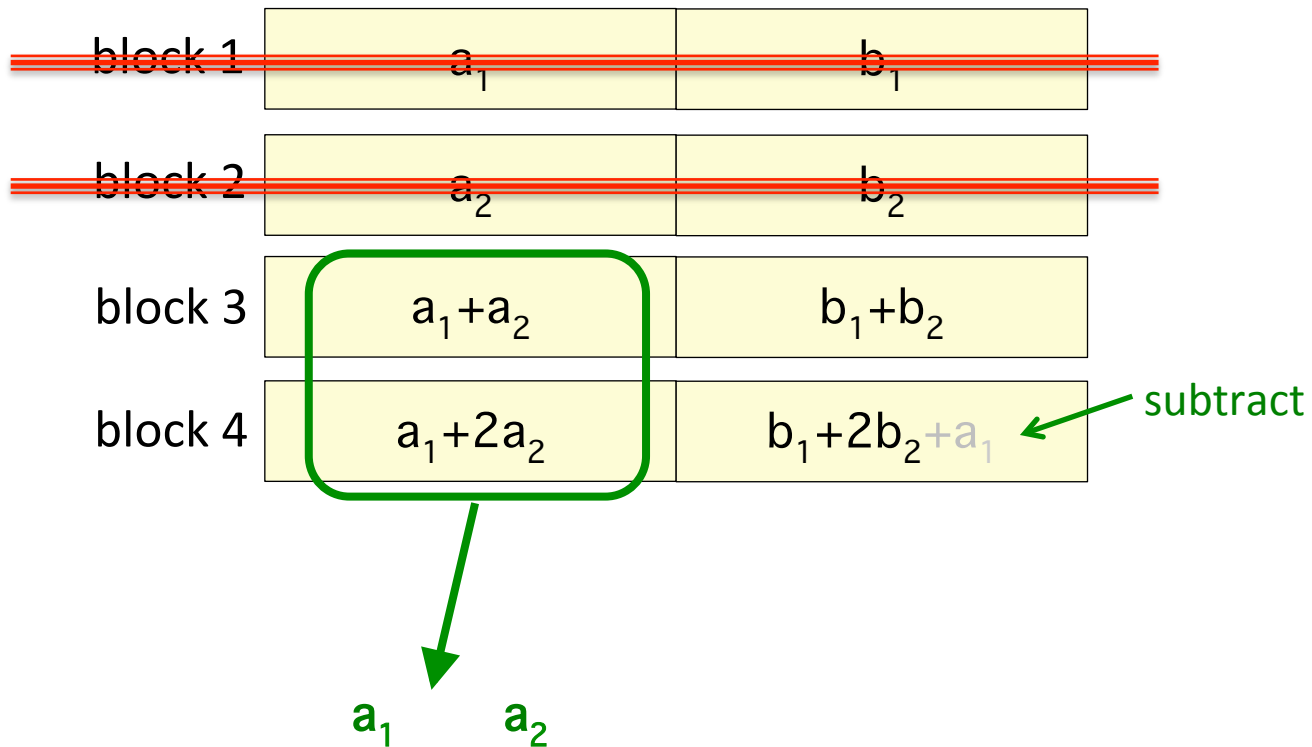
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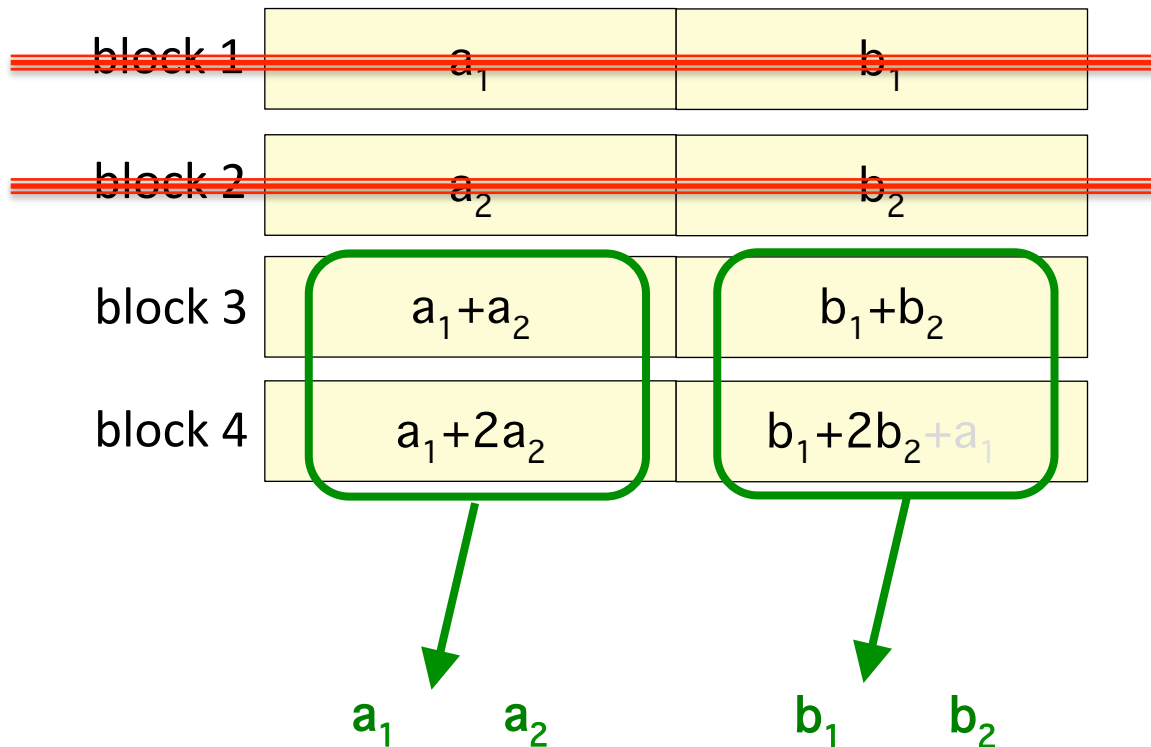
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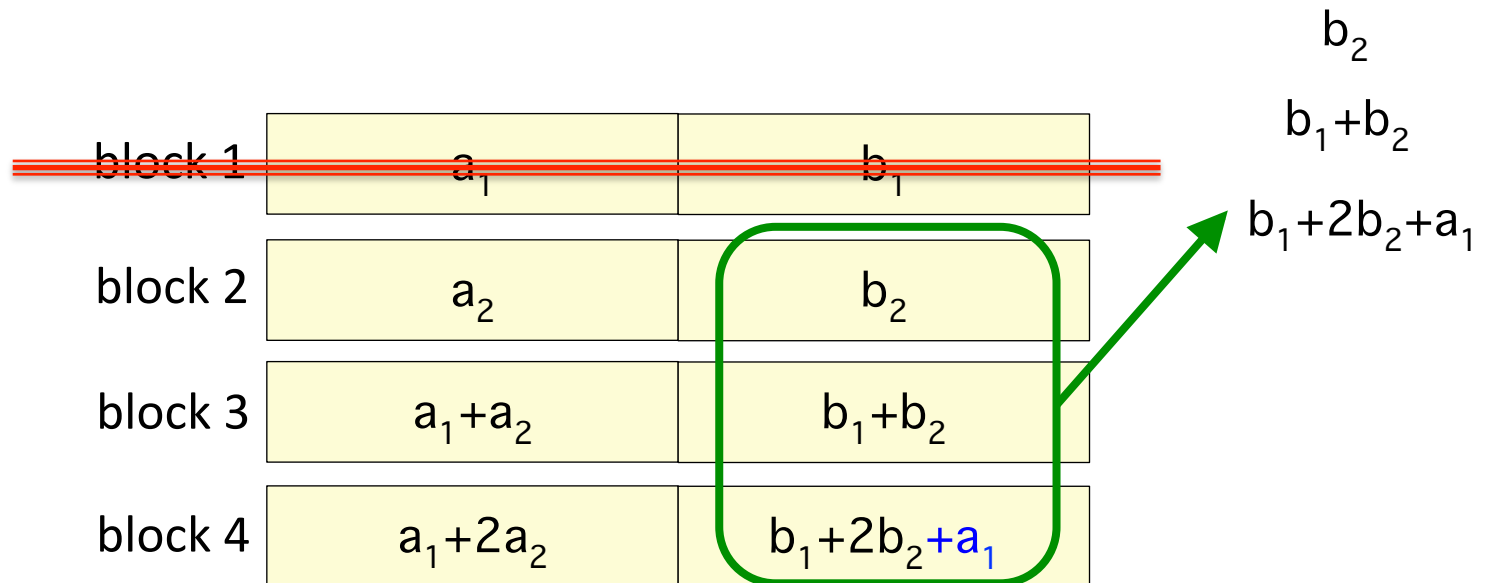
# Recovery (toy example)

Download & IO only 3 bytes  
(instead of 4 bytes as in RS)

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block 2	$a_2$	$b_2$
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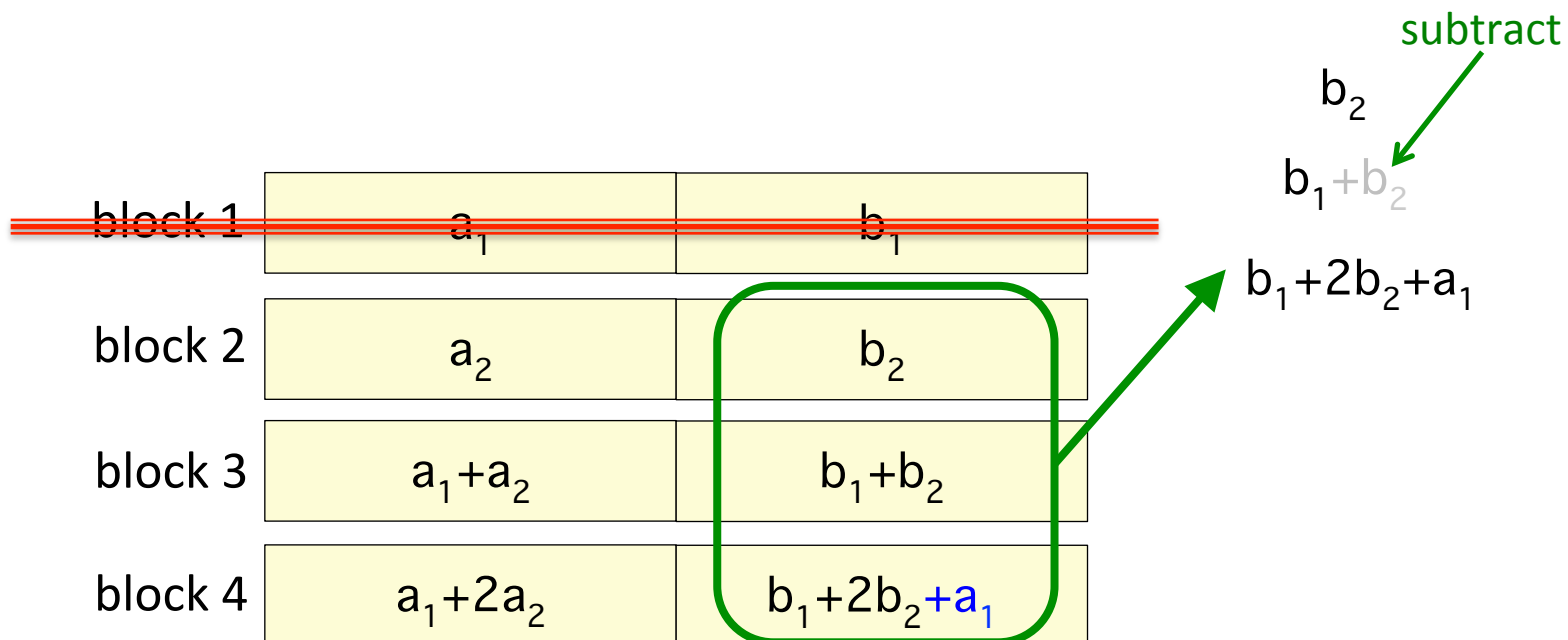
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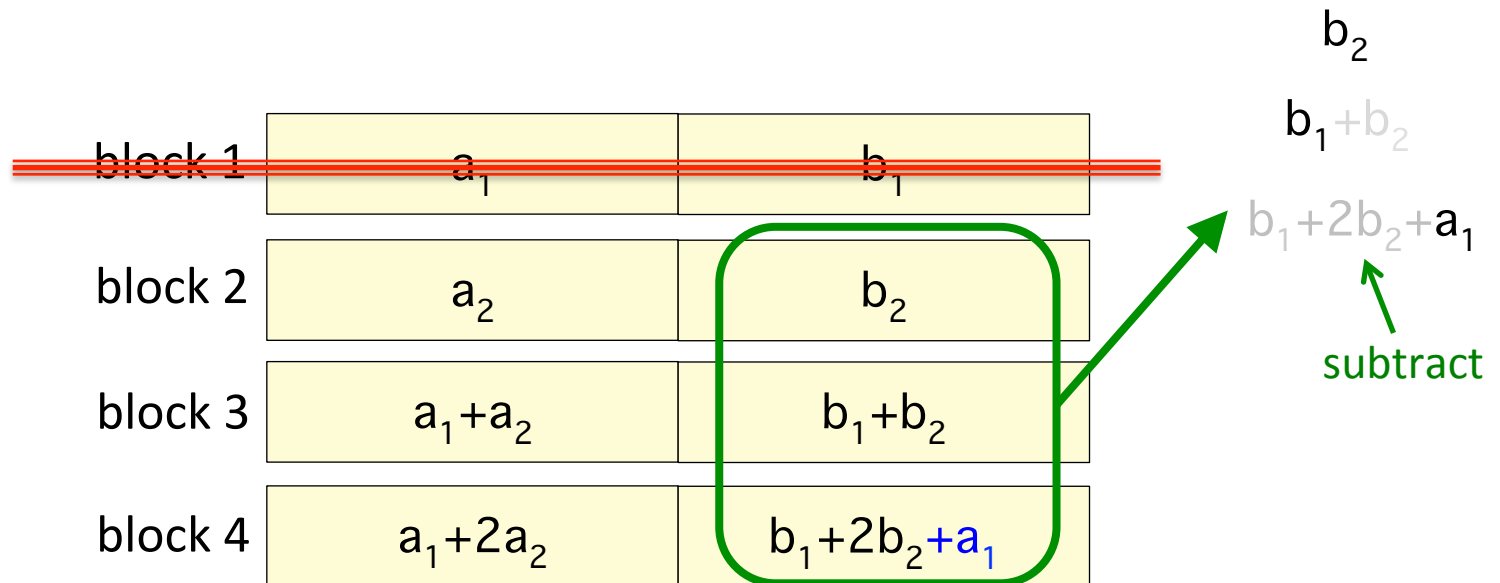
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Download & IO only 3 bytes  
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# General Piggybacking Recipe

To construct a Piggybacked-RS code:

- Step 1: Take RS code with identical parameters
- Step 2: Add carefully designed functions from one byte stripe on to another
  - retains same fault-tolerance and storage overhead
  - piggyback functions designed to reduce amount of download and IO for recovery

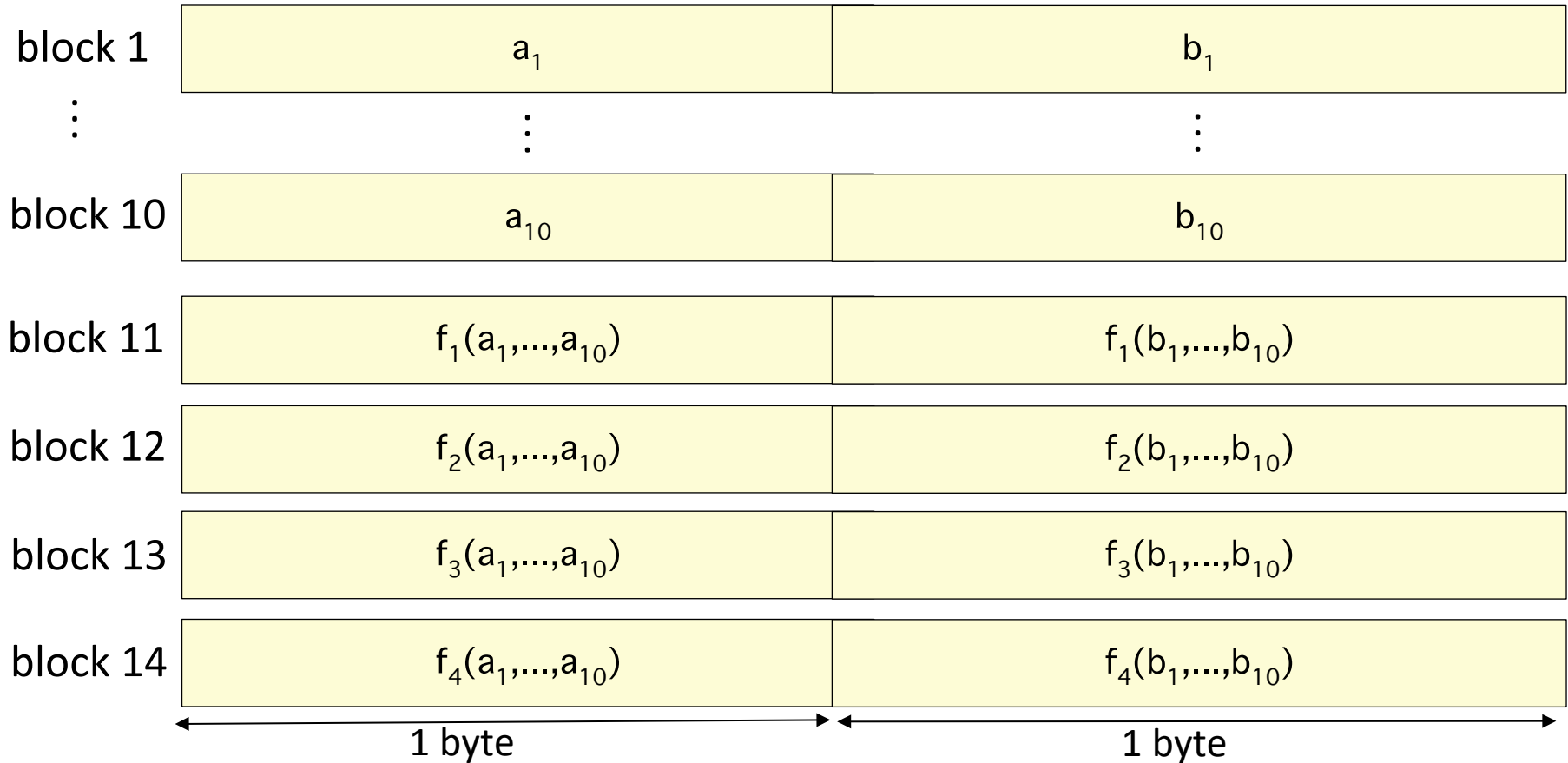
General theory and algorithms:

K.V. Rashmi, Nihar Shah, K. Ramchandran, “A Piggybacking Design Framework for Read-and-Download-efficient Distributed Storage Codes”, in IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT) 2013.

**(10,4) Piggybacked-RS**  
alternative to  
**(10,4) RS currently used in HDFS**

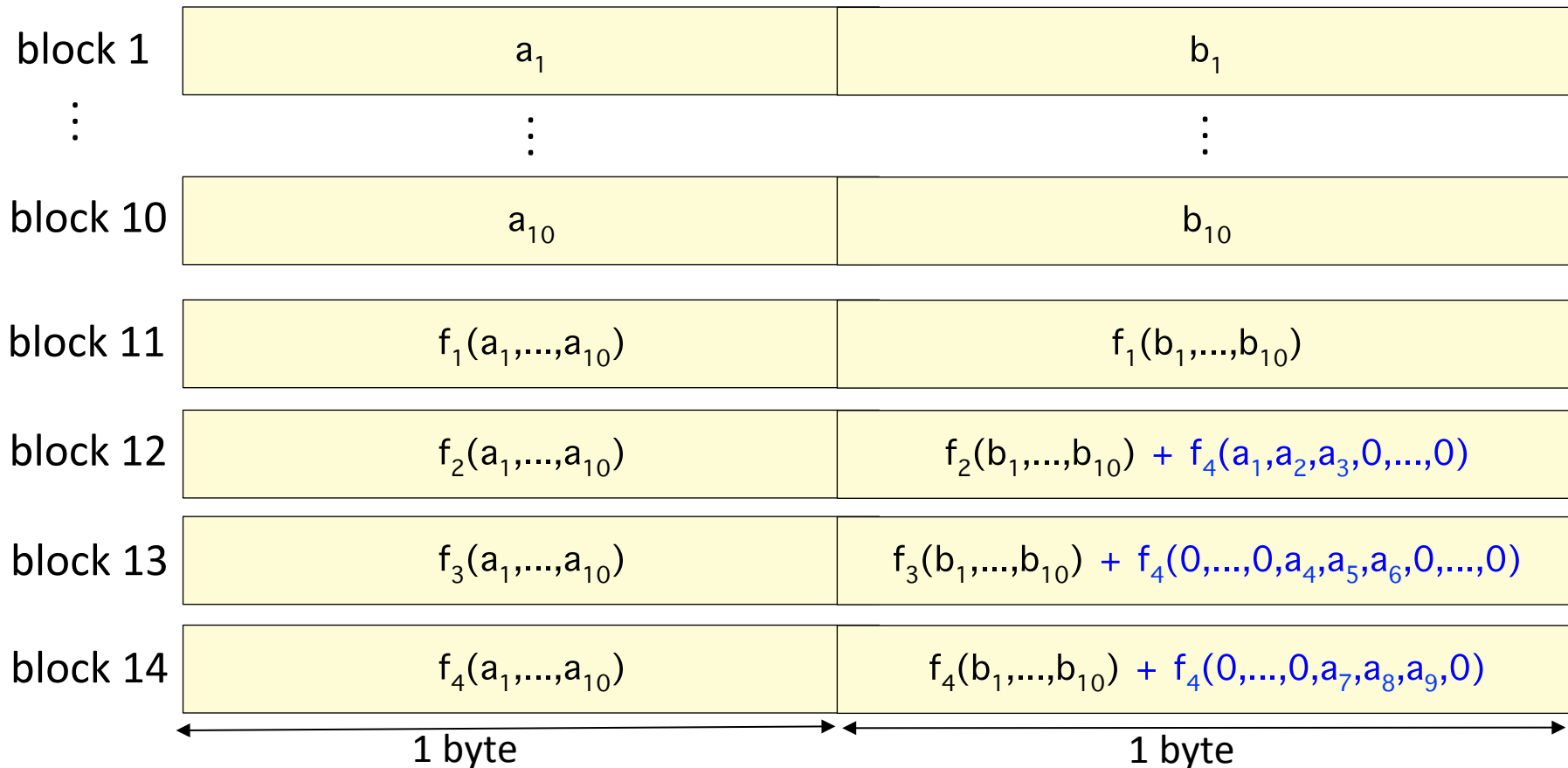
# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

Step 1: Take a (10, 4) Reed-Solomon code



# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Step 2: Add 'Piggybacks'



# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

Tolerates any 4 block failures

block 1	$a_1$	$b_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
block 10	$a_{10}$	$b_{10}$
block 11	$f_1(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_1(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$
block 12	$f_2(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(a_1, a_2, a_3, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 13	$f_3(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_3(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_4, a_5, a_6, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 14	$f_4(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_4(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_7, a_8, a_9, 0)$

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

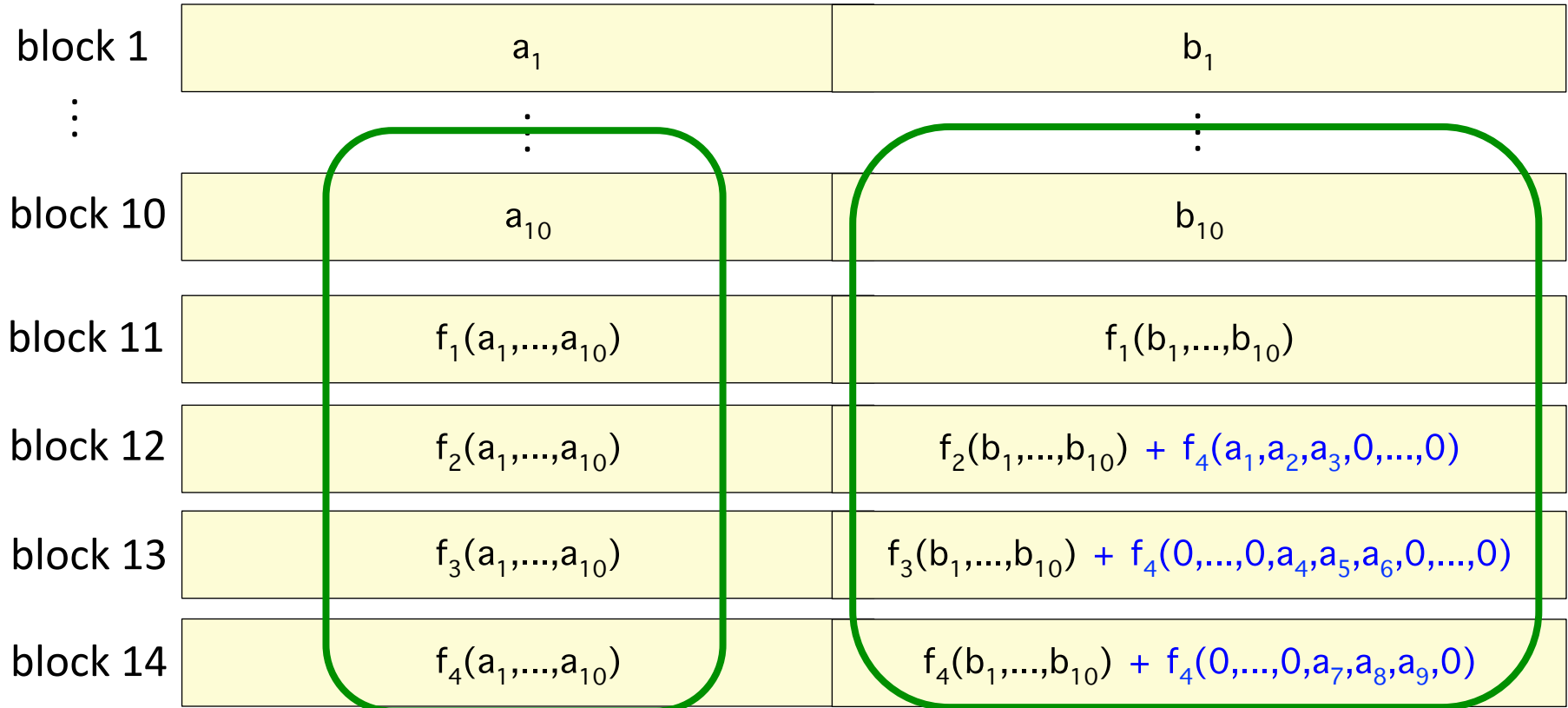
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recover  $a_1, \dots, a_{10}$   
like in RS

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

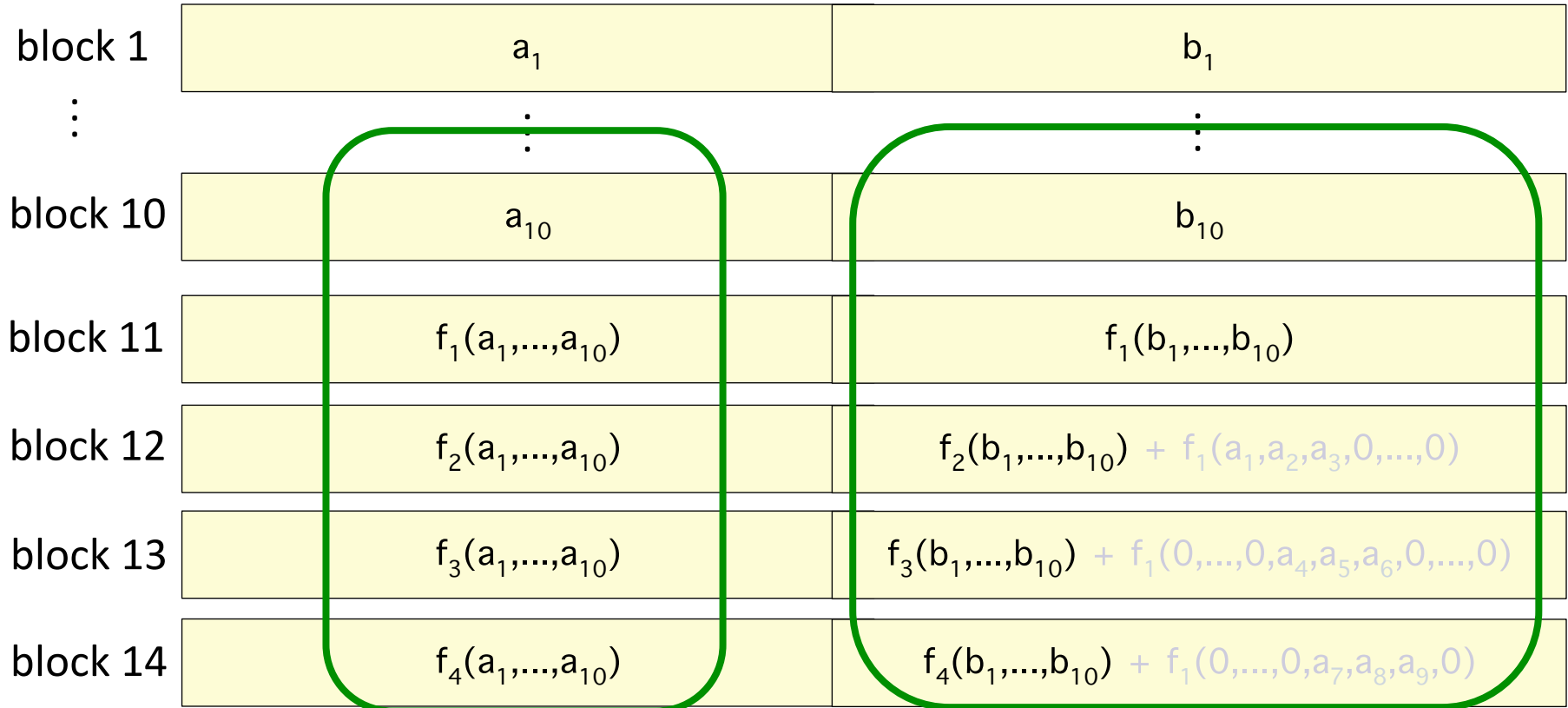
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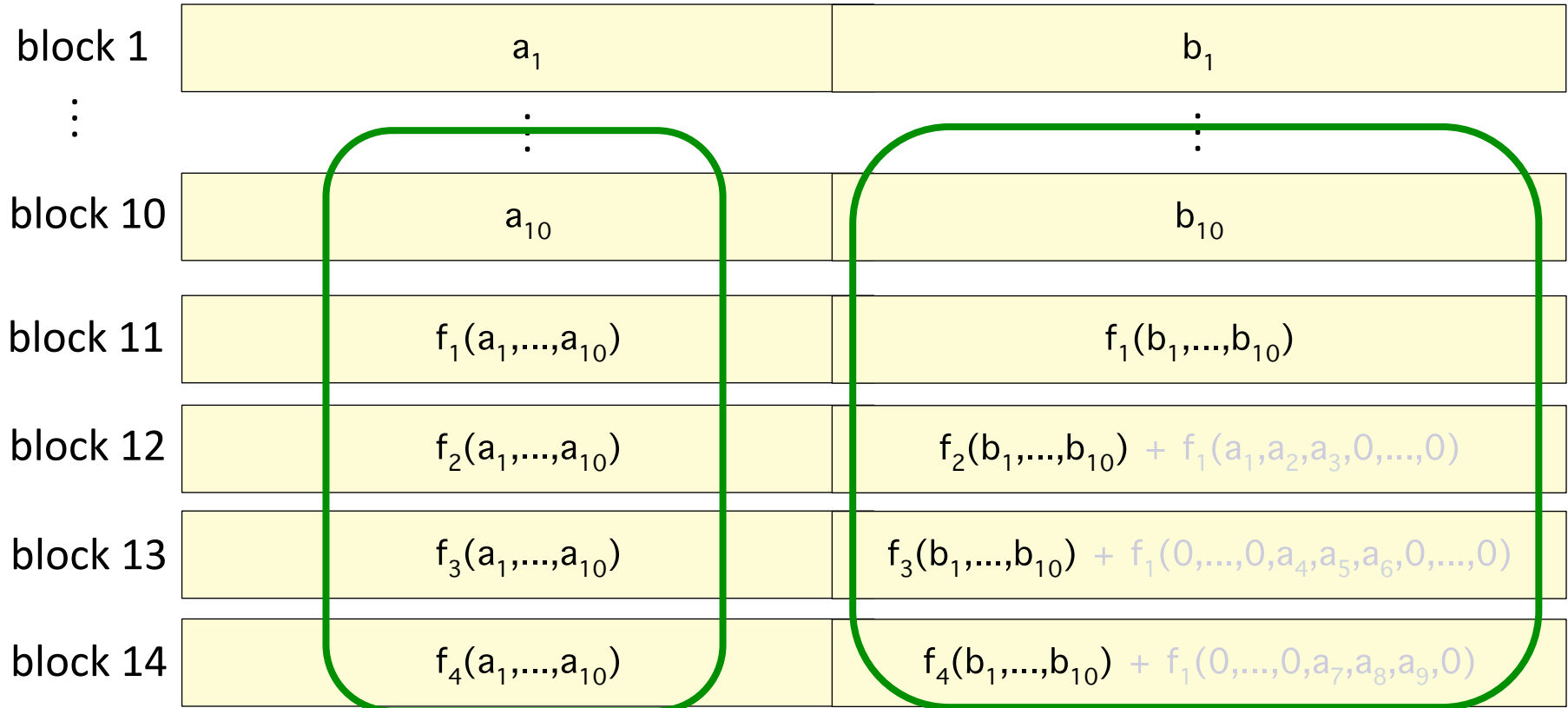
recover  $a_1, \dots, a_{10}$   
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subtract piggybacks  
(functions of  $a_1, \dots, a_{10}$ )



# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

Tolerates any 4 block failures



recover  $a_1, \dots, a_{10}$   
like in RS

subtract piggybacks  
(functions of  $a_1, \dots, a_{10}$ )

recover  $b_1, \dots, b_{10}$   
like in RS

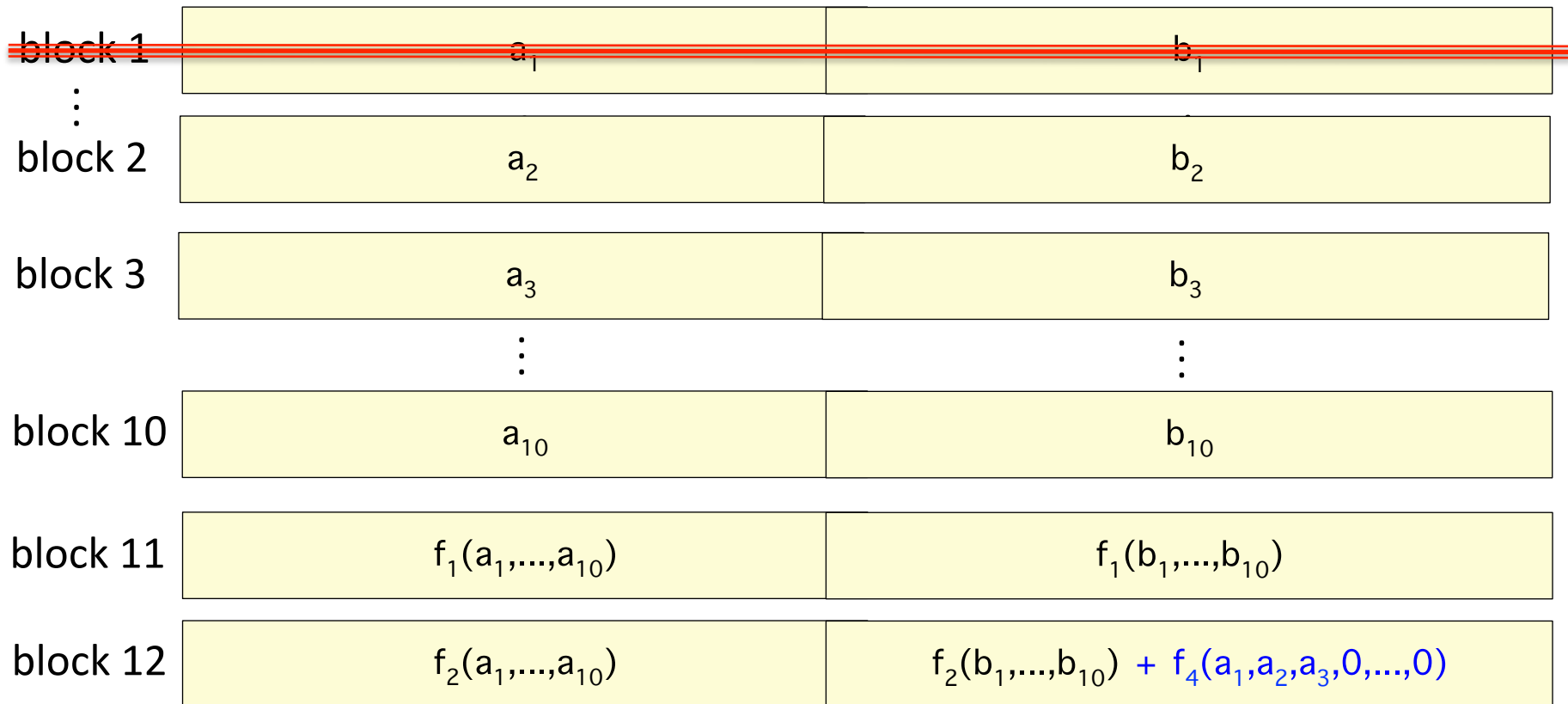
# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

<del>block 1</del>	<del><math>a_1</math></del>	<del><math>b_1</math></del>
⋮		
block 2	$a_2$	$b_2$
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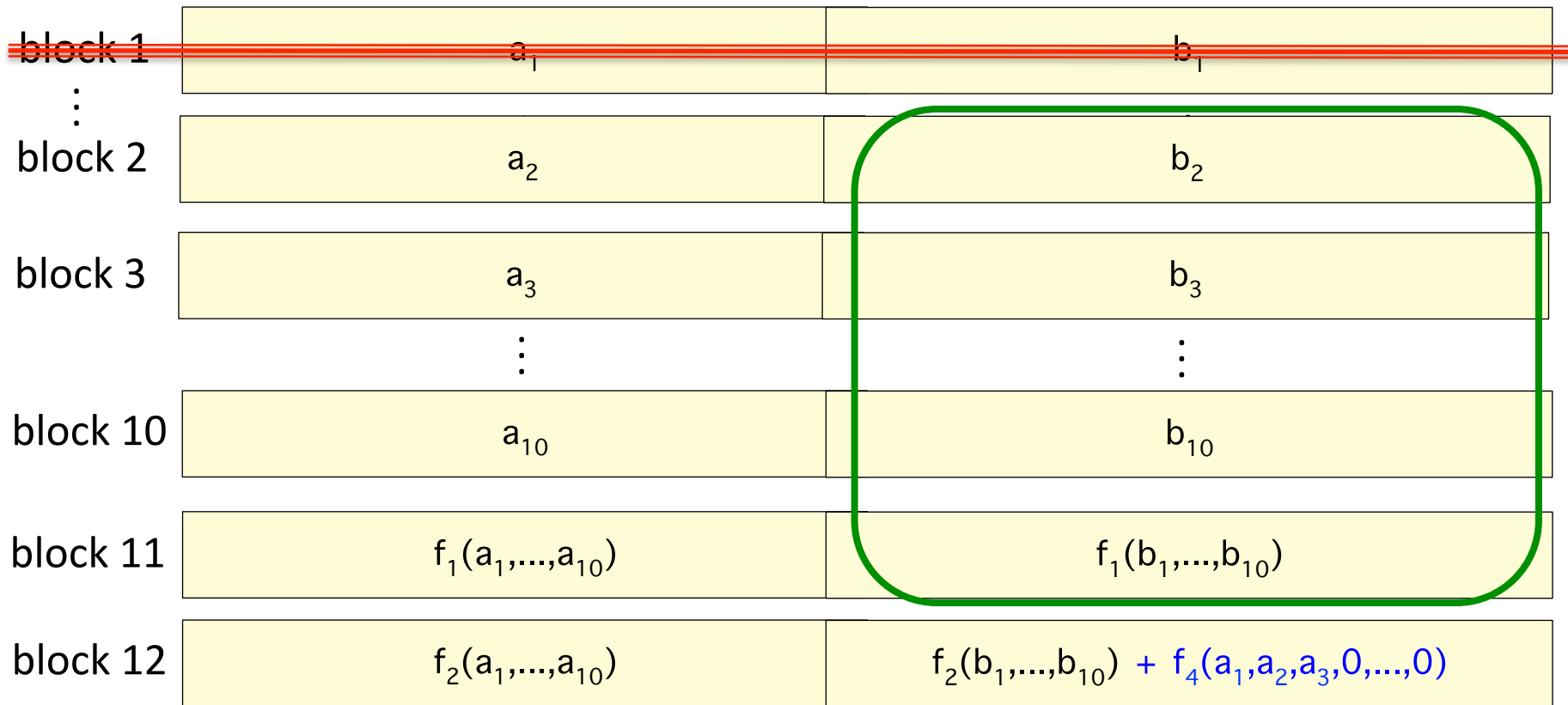
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## Efficient data-recovery



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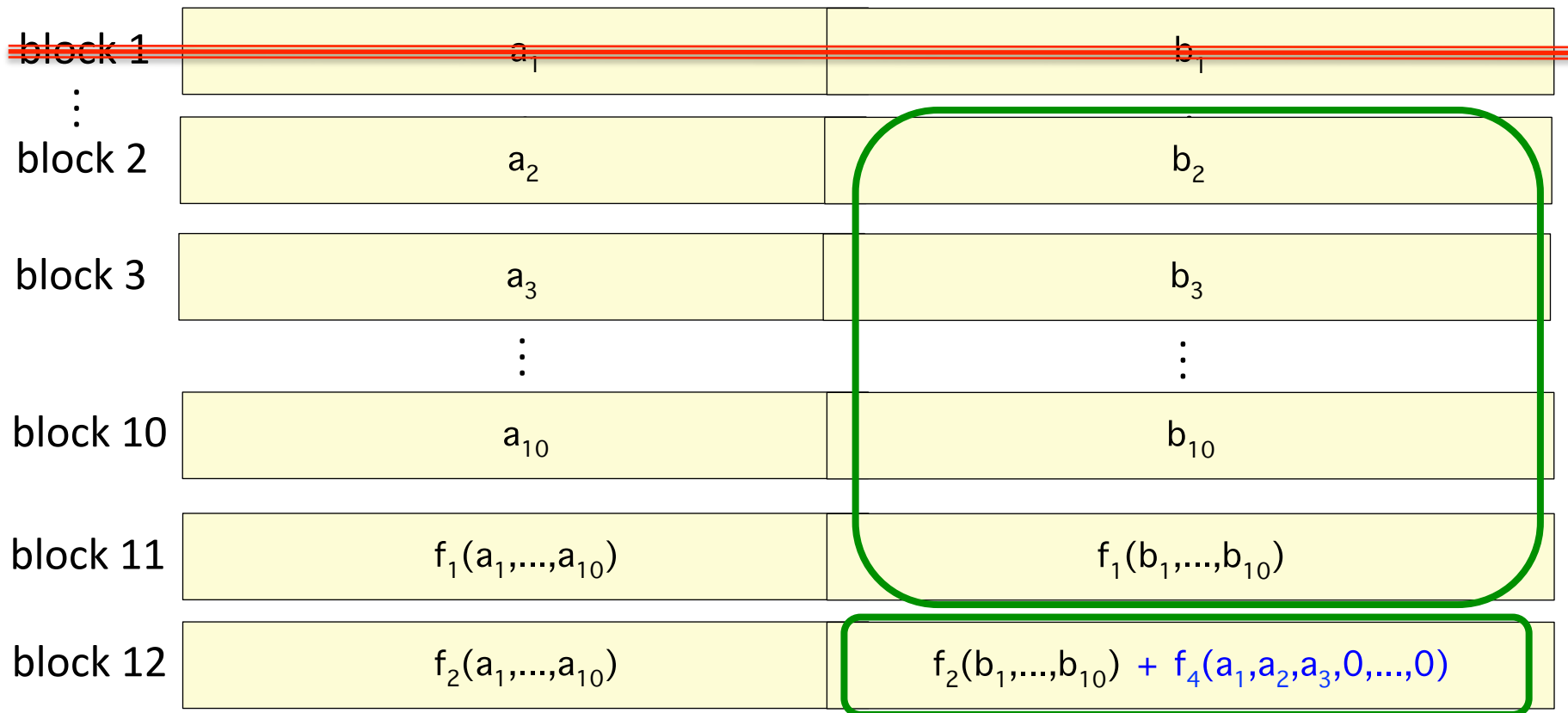
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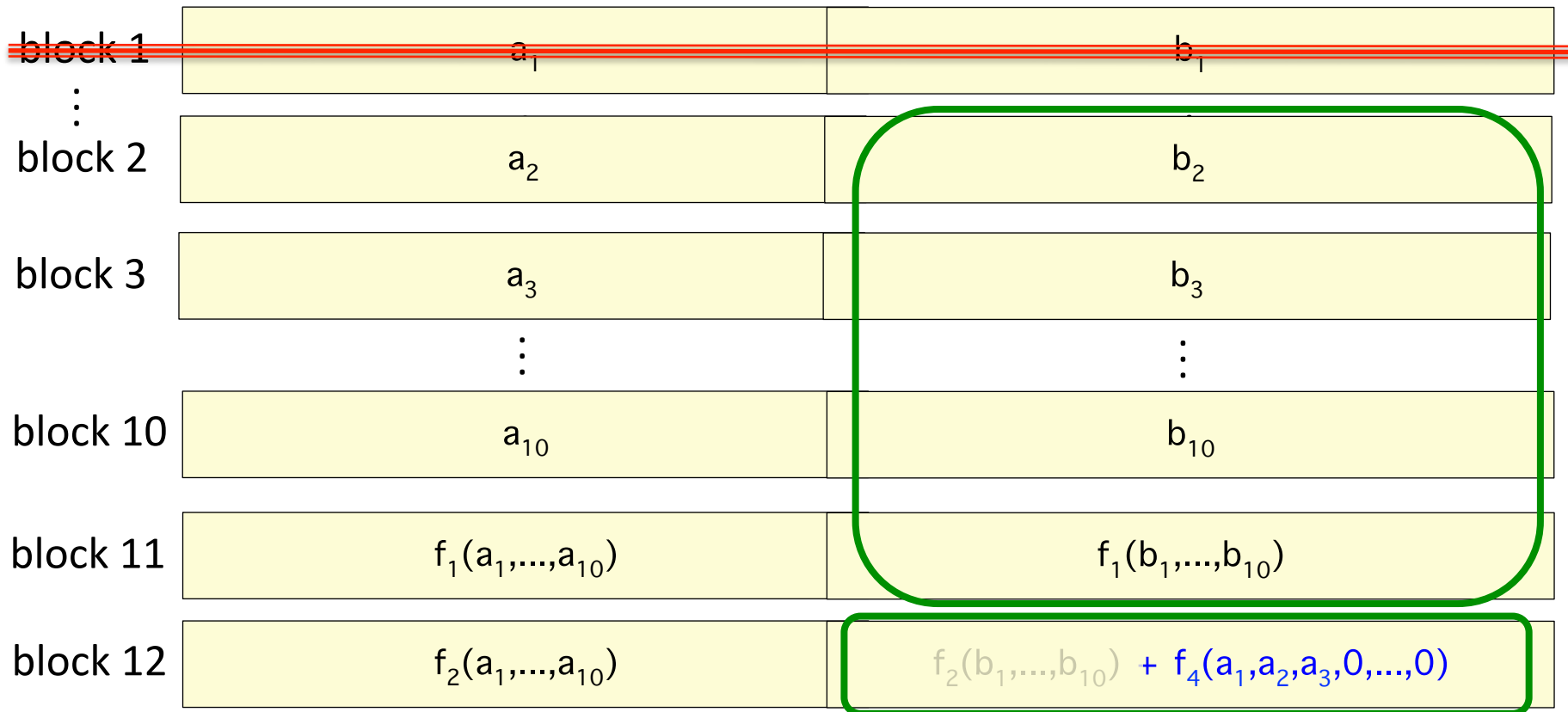
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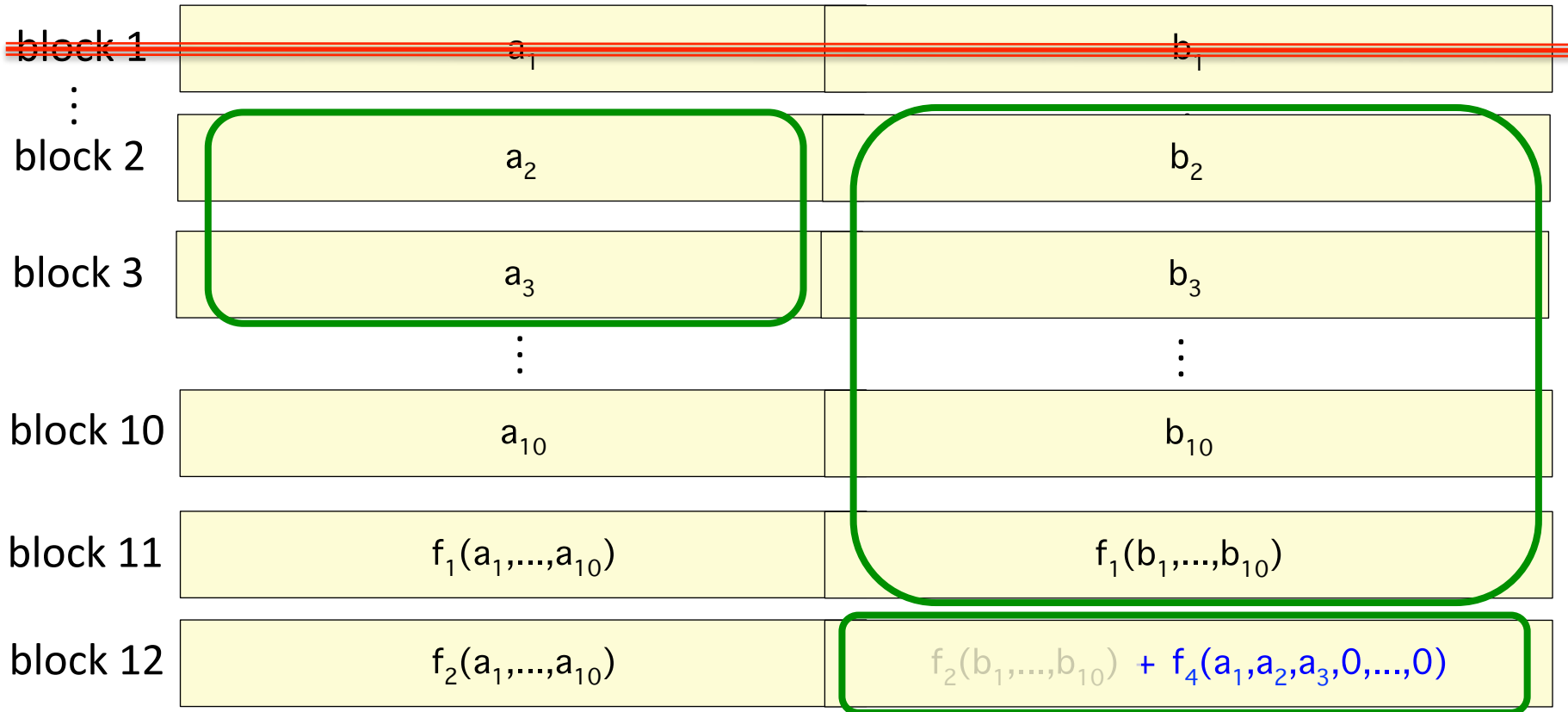


recover  $b_1, \dots, b_{10}$   
like in RS

subtract  $f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

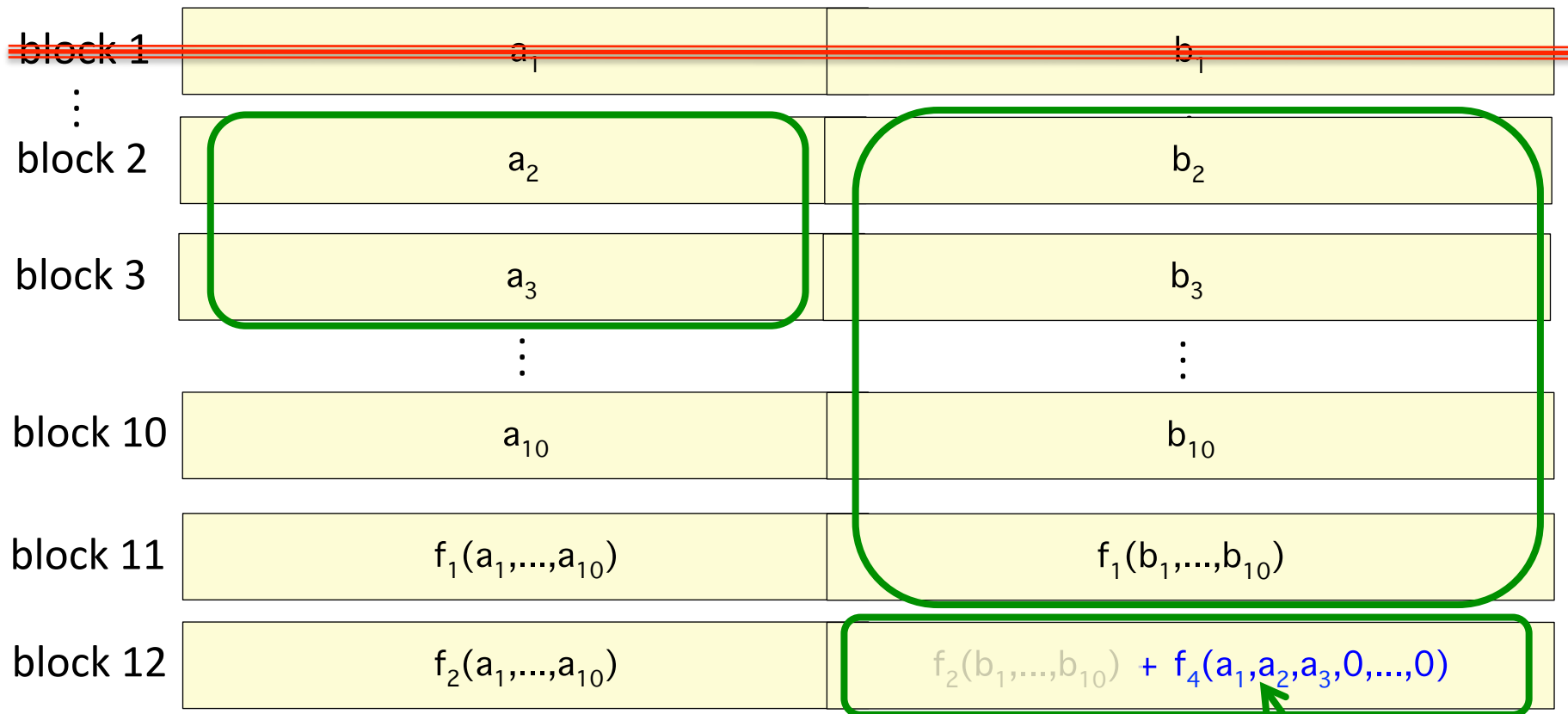


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subtract  $f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery



recover  $b_1, \dots, b_{10}$   
like in RS

subtract  $f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$

remove effect of  $a_2$  and  $a_3$   
to get  $a_1$

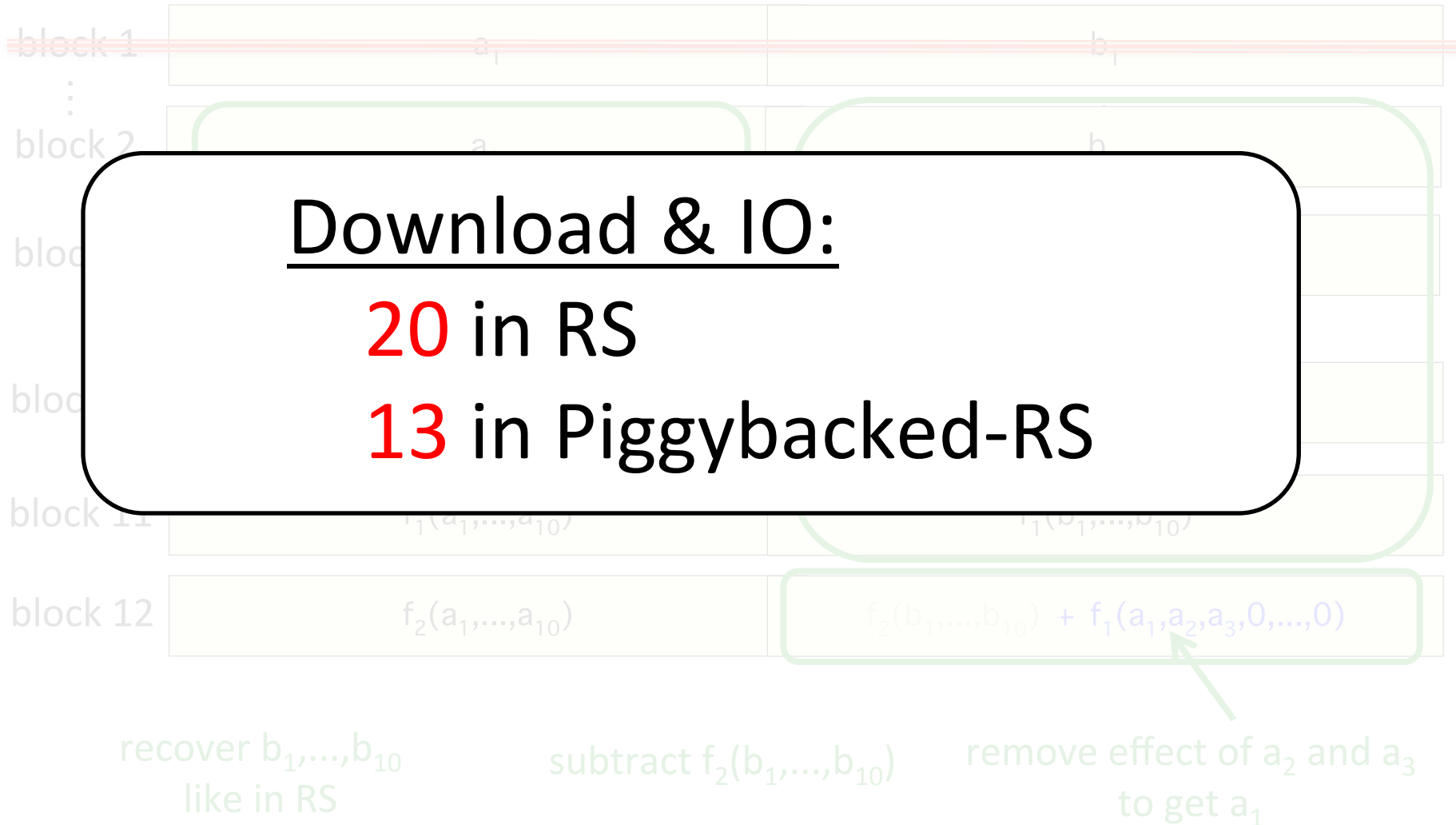


# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

Download & IO:

**20** in RS

**13** in Piggybacked-RS



# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

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Repair of blocks 1,2,3

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

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block 10	$a_{10}$	$b_{10}$
block 11	$f_1(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_1(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$
block 12	$f_2(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(a_1, a_2, a_3, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 13	$f_3(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_3(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_4, a_5, a_6, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 14	$f_4(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_4(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_7, a_8, a_9, 0)$

Repair of blocks 4,5,6

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

block 1	$a_1$	$b_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
block 10	$a_{10}$	$b_{10}$
block 11	$f_1(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_1(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$
block 12	$f_2(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(a_1, a_2, a_3, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 13	$f_3(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_3(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_4, a_5, a_6, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 14	$f_4(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_4(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_7, a_8, a_9, 0)$

Repair of blocks 7,8,9

# (10,4) Piggybacked-RS code

## Efficient data-recovery

block 1	$a_1$	$b_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
block 10	$a_{10}$	$b_{10}$
block 11	$f_1(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_1(b_1, \dots, b_{10})$
block 12	$f_2(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_2(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(a_1, a_2, a_3, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 13	$f_3(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_3(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_4, a_5, a_6, 0, \dots, 0)$
block 14	$f_4(a_1, \dots, a_{10})$	$f_4(b_1, \dots, b_{10}) + f_4(0, \dots, 0, a_7, a_8, a_9, 0)$

Repair of block 10

# Expected Performance

- Storage efficiency and reliability
  - no additional storage vs RS
  - same fault-tolerance vs RS

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- Storage efficiency and reliability
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  - 30% less for single block recoveries in stripe
  - potential **reduction >50TB cross-rack traffic** per day

# Expected Performance

- Storage efficiency and reliability
  - no additional storage vs RS
  - same fault-tolerance vs RS
- Reduced recovery download & disk IO
  - 30% less for single block recoveries in stripe
  - potential reduction >50TB cross-rack traffic per day
- Recovery time: expect faster recovery
  - need to connect to more nodes
  - system limited by disk and network bandwidth
  - corroborated by preliminary experiments
  - hence, expect higher MTDDL



# Related Work: Measurements

- Existing Studies

- Availability studies:

- Schroeder & Gibson 2007, Jiang et al. 2008, Ford et al. 2010 etc.

- Comparisons between replication and erasure codes:

- Rodrigues & Liskov 2005, Weatherspoon & Kubiatowicz 2002 etc.

- Our focus

- Increased network traffic due to increased downloads during recovery of erasure-coded data

- Measurements from Facebook warehouse cluster in production

# Related Work: Codes for Efficient Data Recovery

- Huang et al. (Windows Azure) 2012, Sathiamoorthy et al. (Xorbas) 2013
  - add additional parities: **need extra storage**
- Hu et al. (NCFS) 2011
  - Network file system using ‘repair-by-transfer’ codes (Shah et al.):  
**need extra storage**
- Khan et al. (Rotated-RS) 2012
  - **#parity  $\leq 3$**  (also, #data  $\leq 36$ )
- Xiang et al., Wang et al. (Optimized RDP & EVENODD) 2010
  - **#parity  $\leq 2$**
- **Our solution: Piggybacked-RS**
  - no additional storage: storage-capacity optimal
  - any #data & #parity
  - as good as or better than Rotated-RS, optimized RDP & EVENODD

# Summary and Future Work

- Erasure codes require higher download & IO for recovery
- Measurements from Facebook warehouse cluster in production
- Piggybacked-RS: alternative to RS
  - no additional storage required; same fault-tolerance as RS
  - 30% reduction in download & disk IO for recovery
- Future Work
  - implementation in HDFS (in progress at UC Berkeley)
  - empirical evaluation