

# LASER: LineAr CompreSsion in WirEless DistRibuted Optimization

Ashok Vardhan Makkuva (EPFL)

Joint work with Marco Bondaschi, Thijs Vogels, Martin Jaggi,  
Hyeji Kim, Michael Gastpar

# Outline

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- Motivation

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- Contribution: LASER

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- Contribution: LASER
- Future directions

# Outline

- Motivation

# Obligatory slide



# Obligatory slide

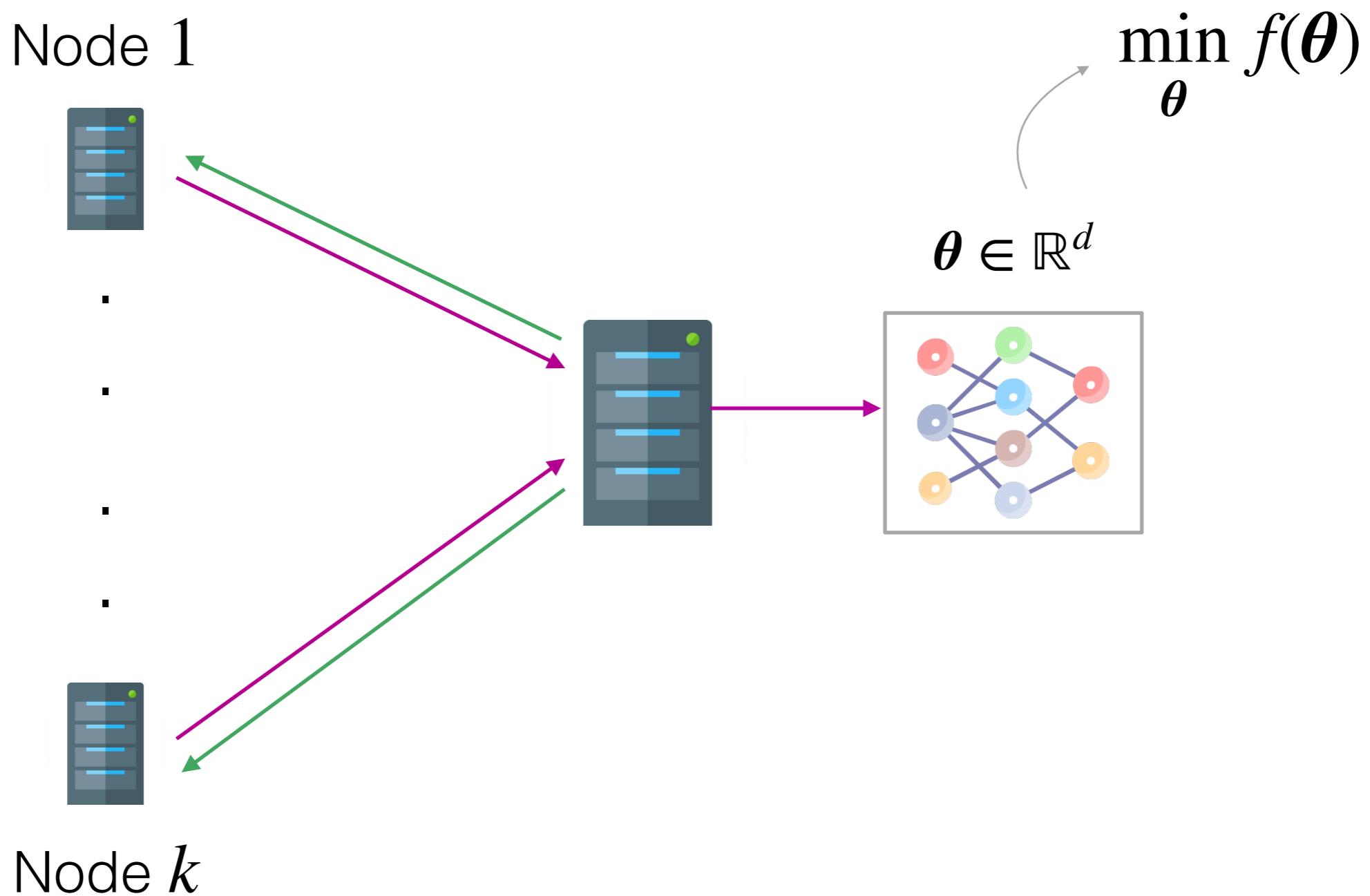


# Obligatory slide

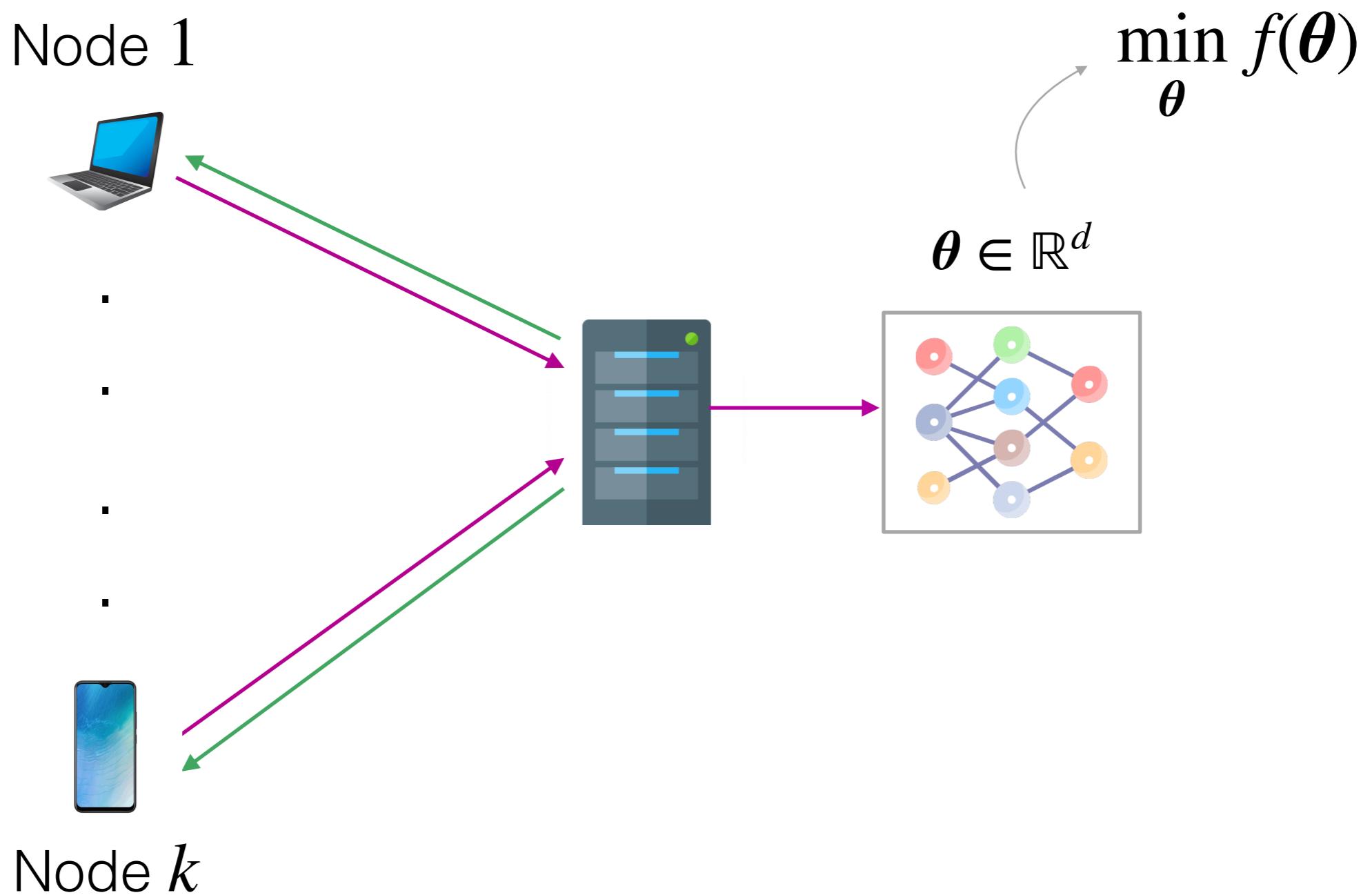


# Distributed Optimization

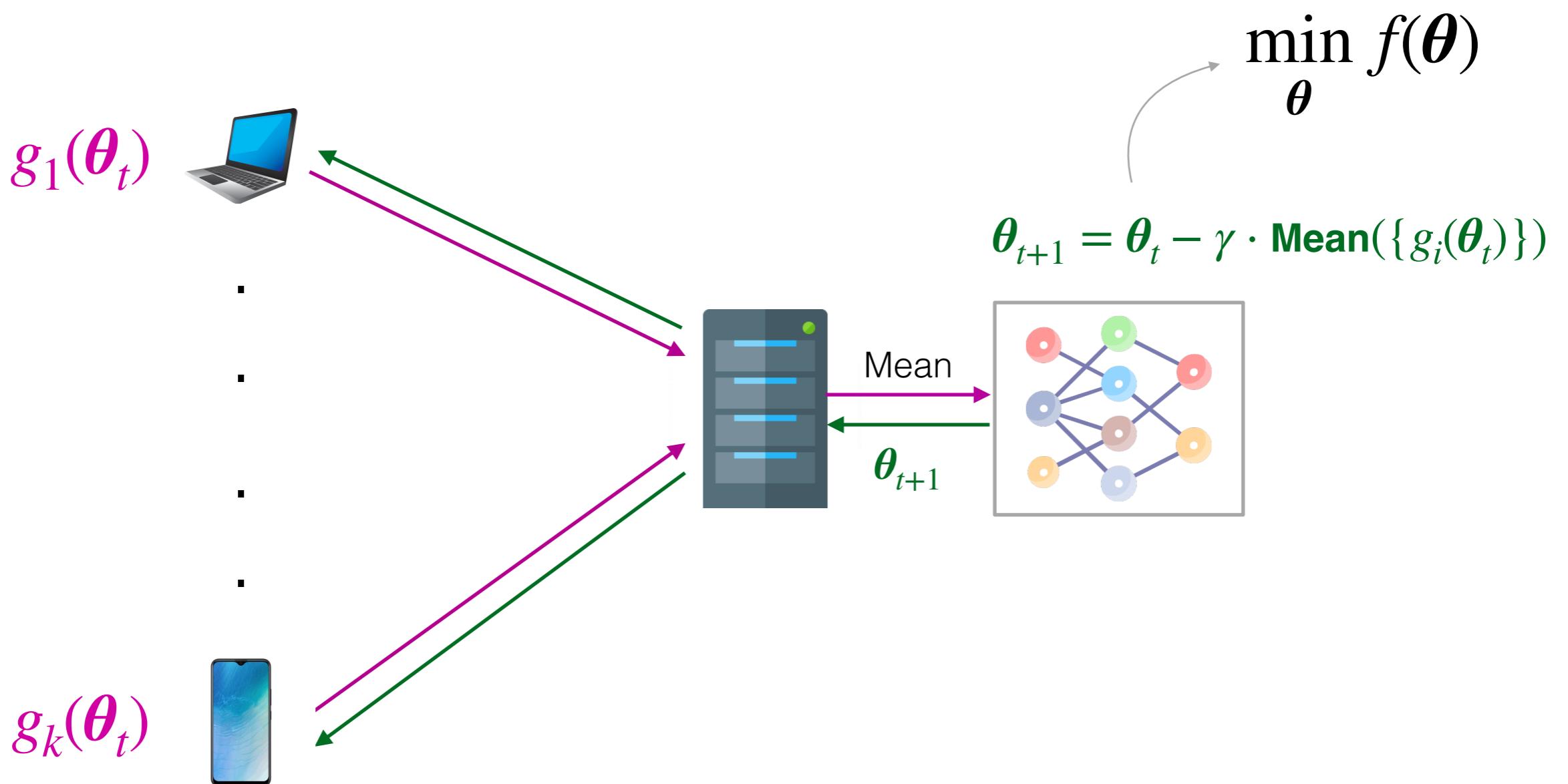
# Distributed Optimization



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# Distributed SGD



# **SGD: assumptions**

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- Noiseless communication links

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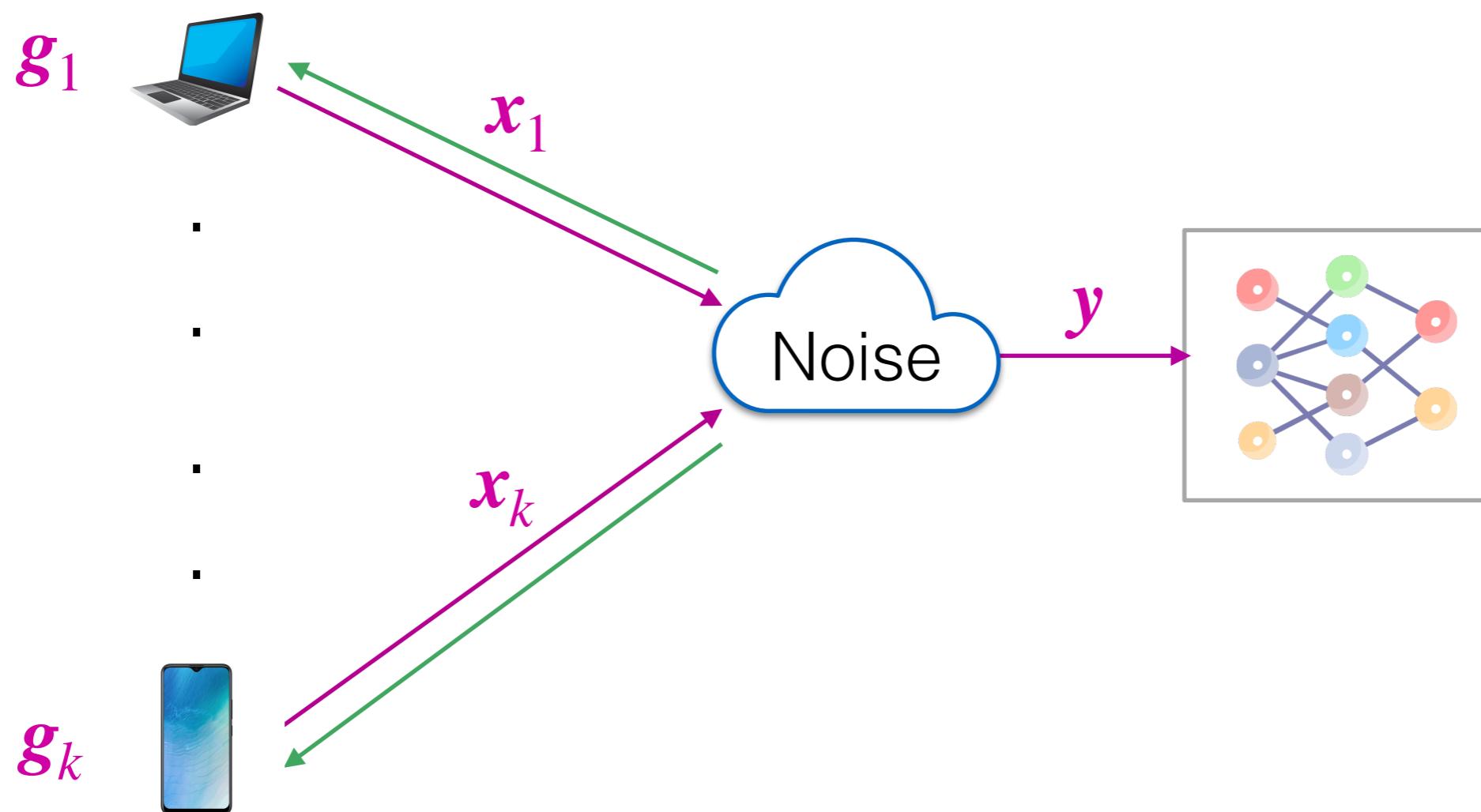
- Noiseless communication links
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  - Noisy links: Error-correcting codes
  - **Low-latency**: server should decode each client to compute mean

# SGD: assumptions

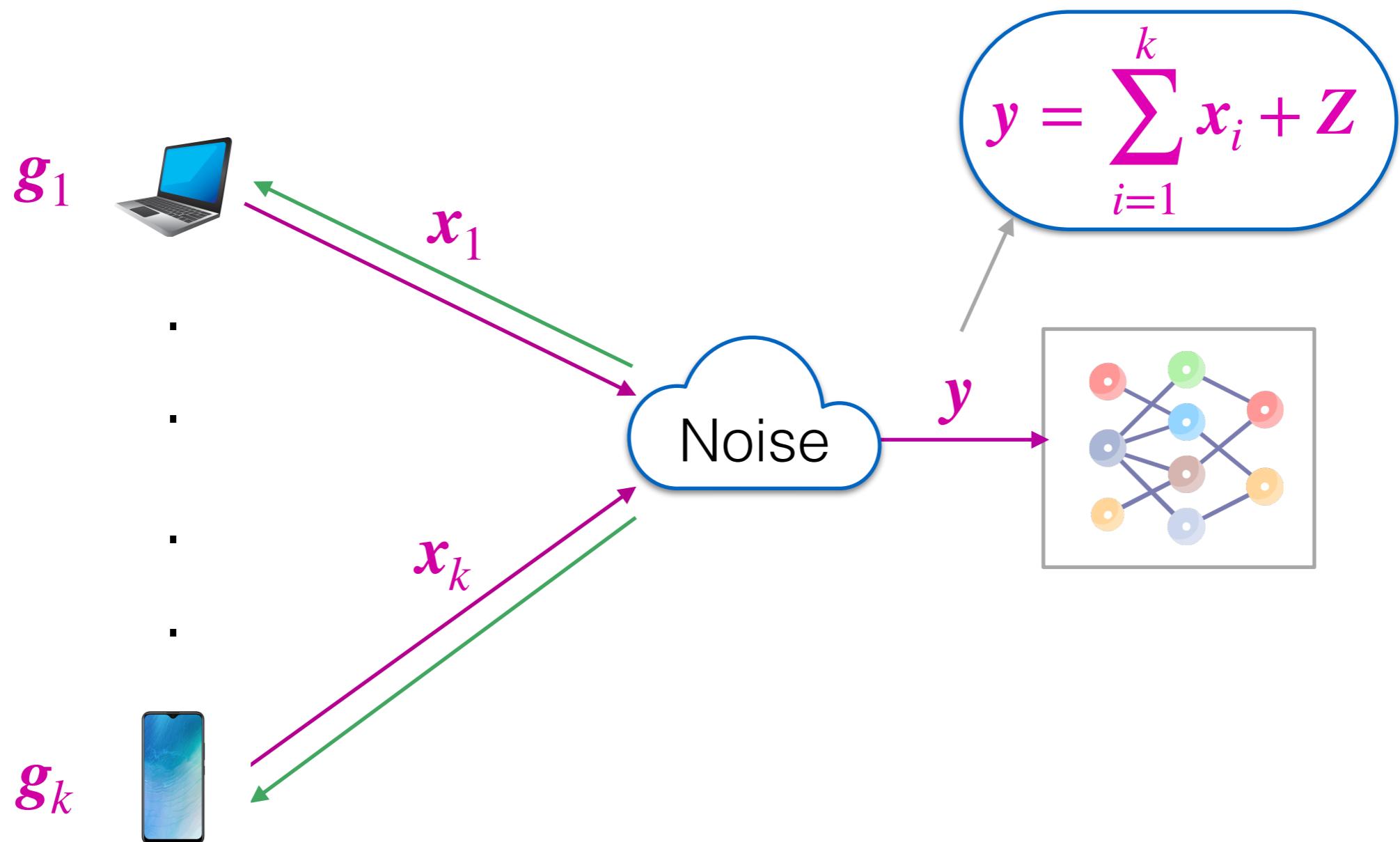
- Noiseless communication links
  - Data center
  - Federated learning
- Federated learning
  - Noisy links: Error-correcting codes
  - Low-latency: server should decode each client to compute mean
- Can we tame the noise directly?

# Noise

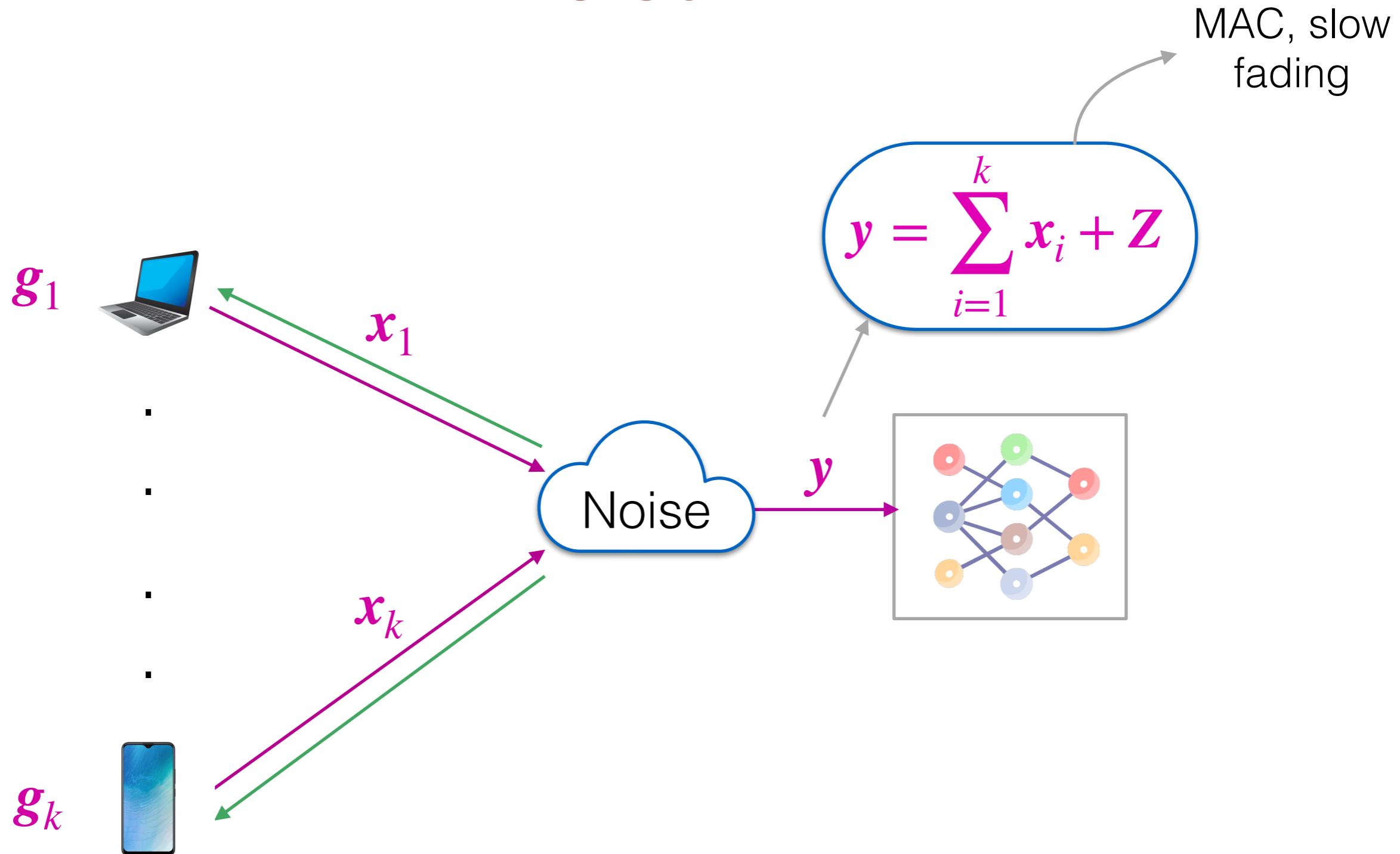
# Noise



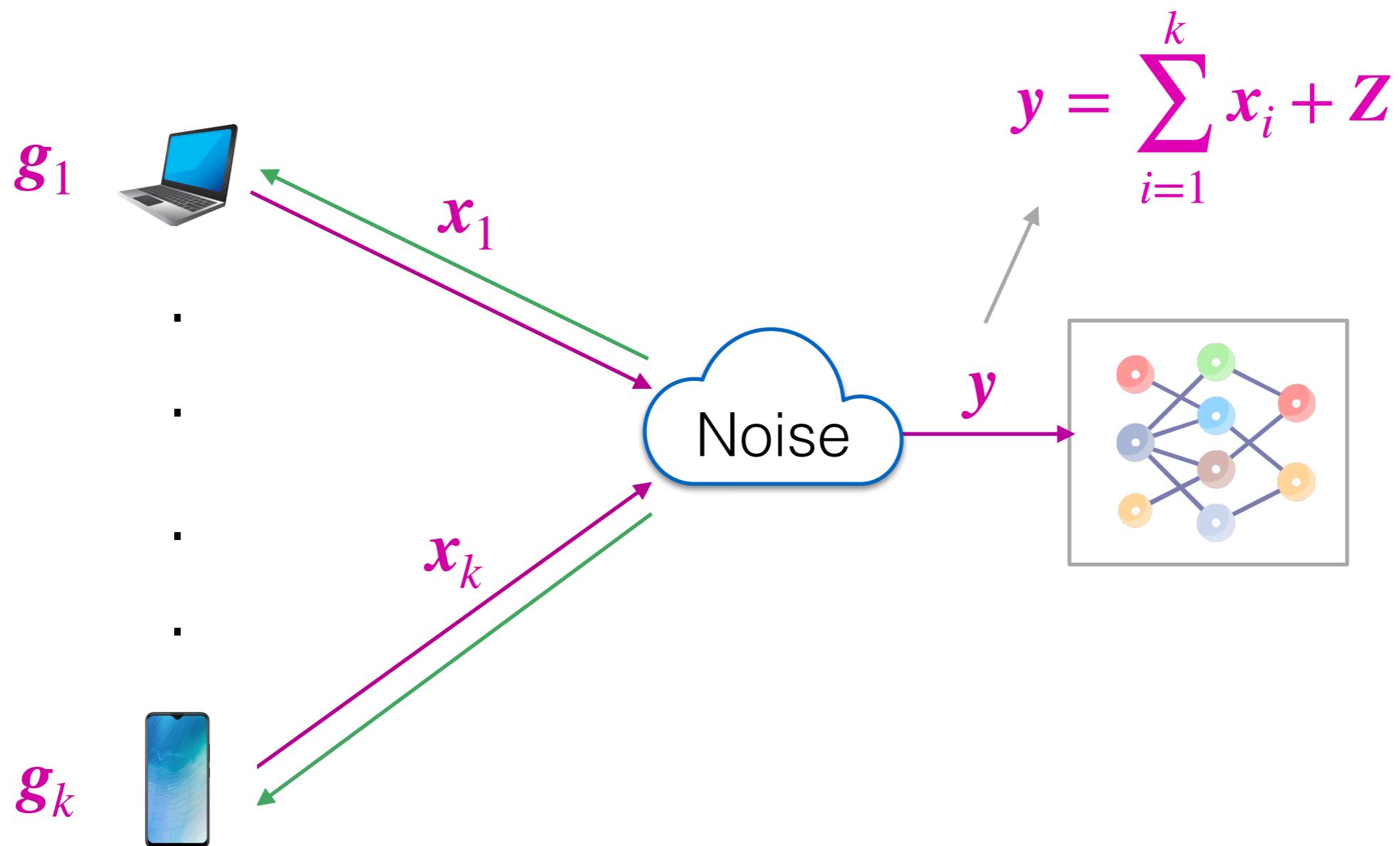
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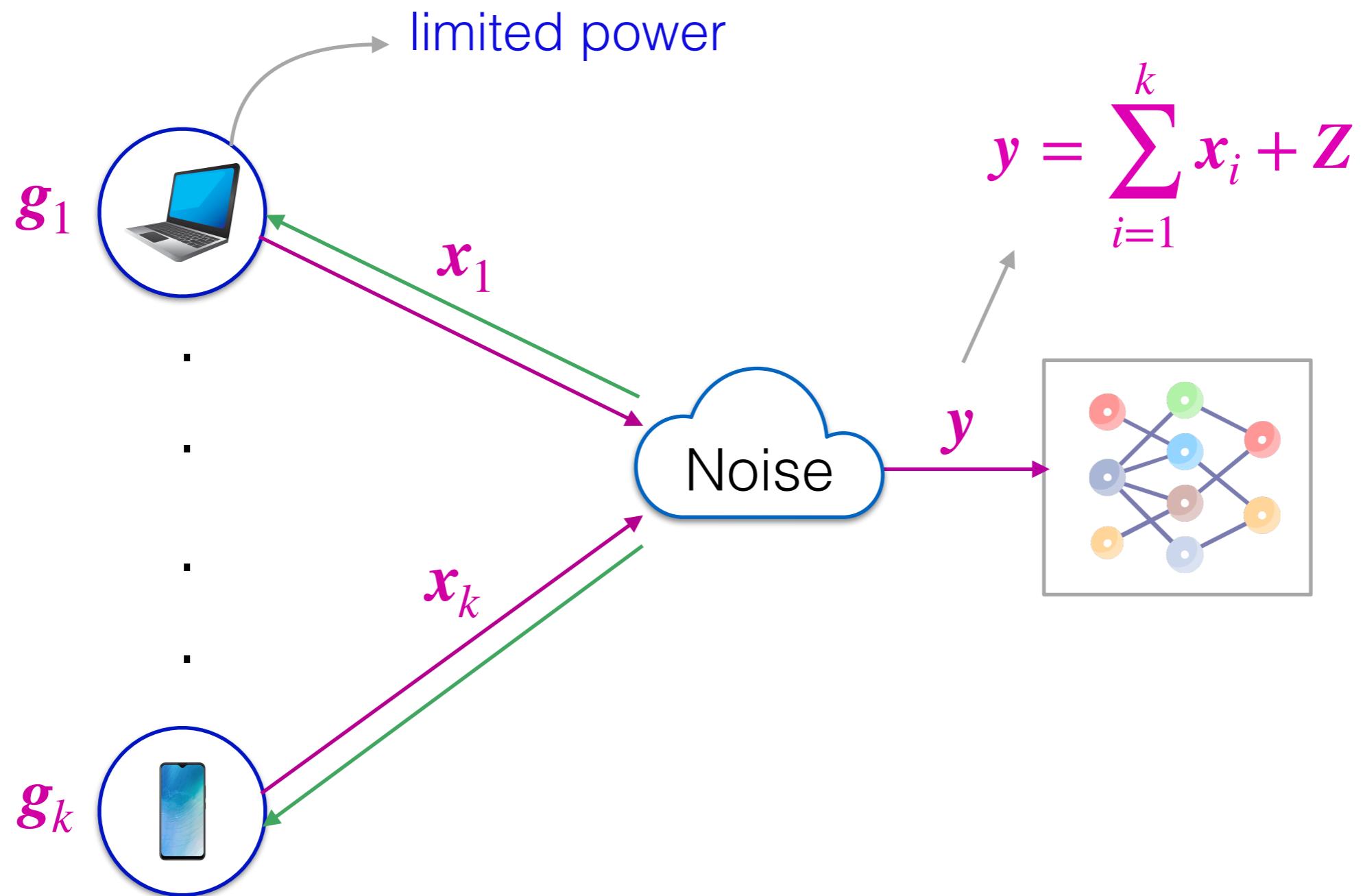
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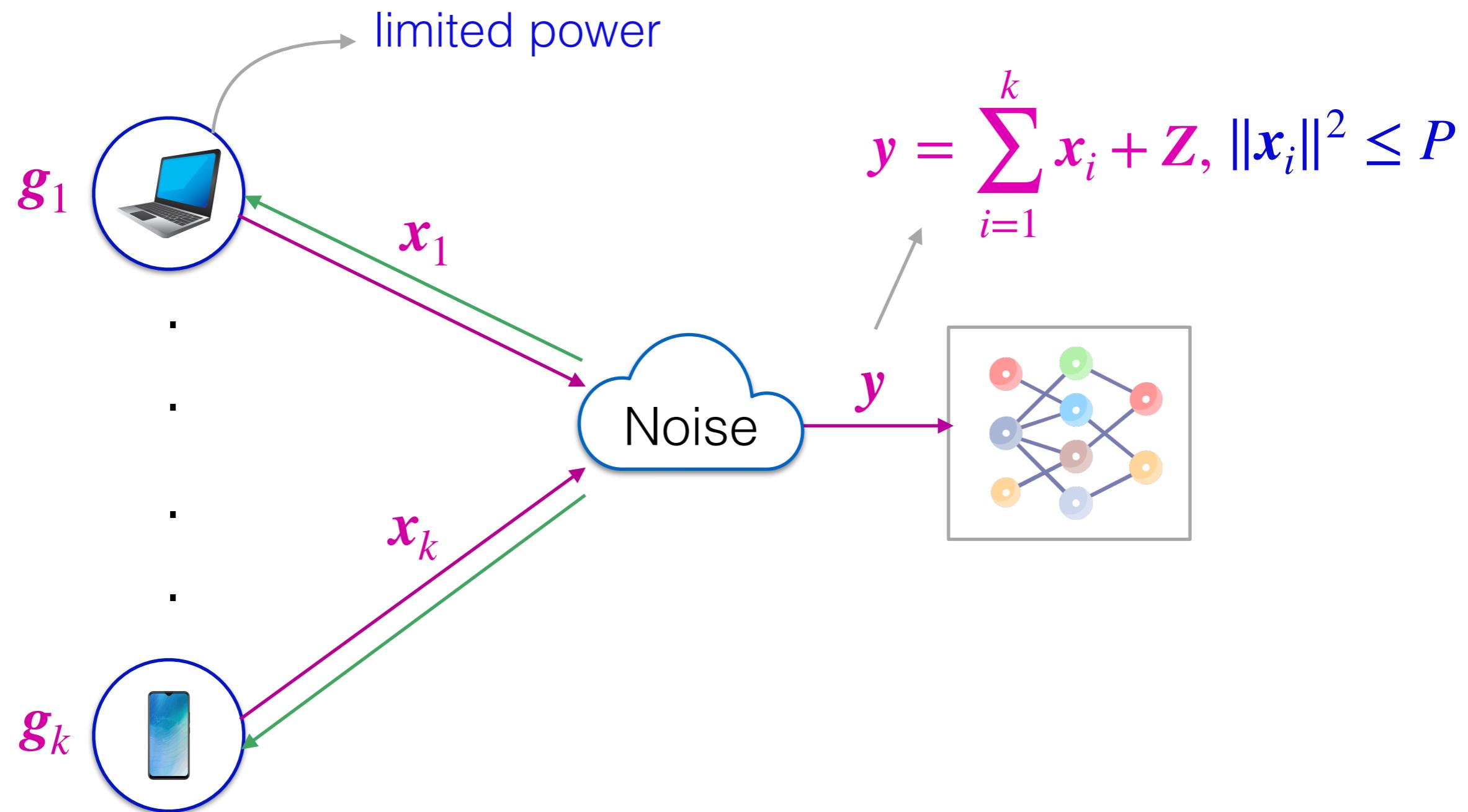
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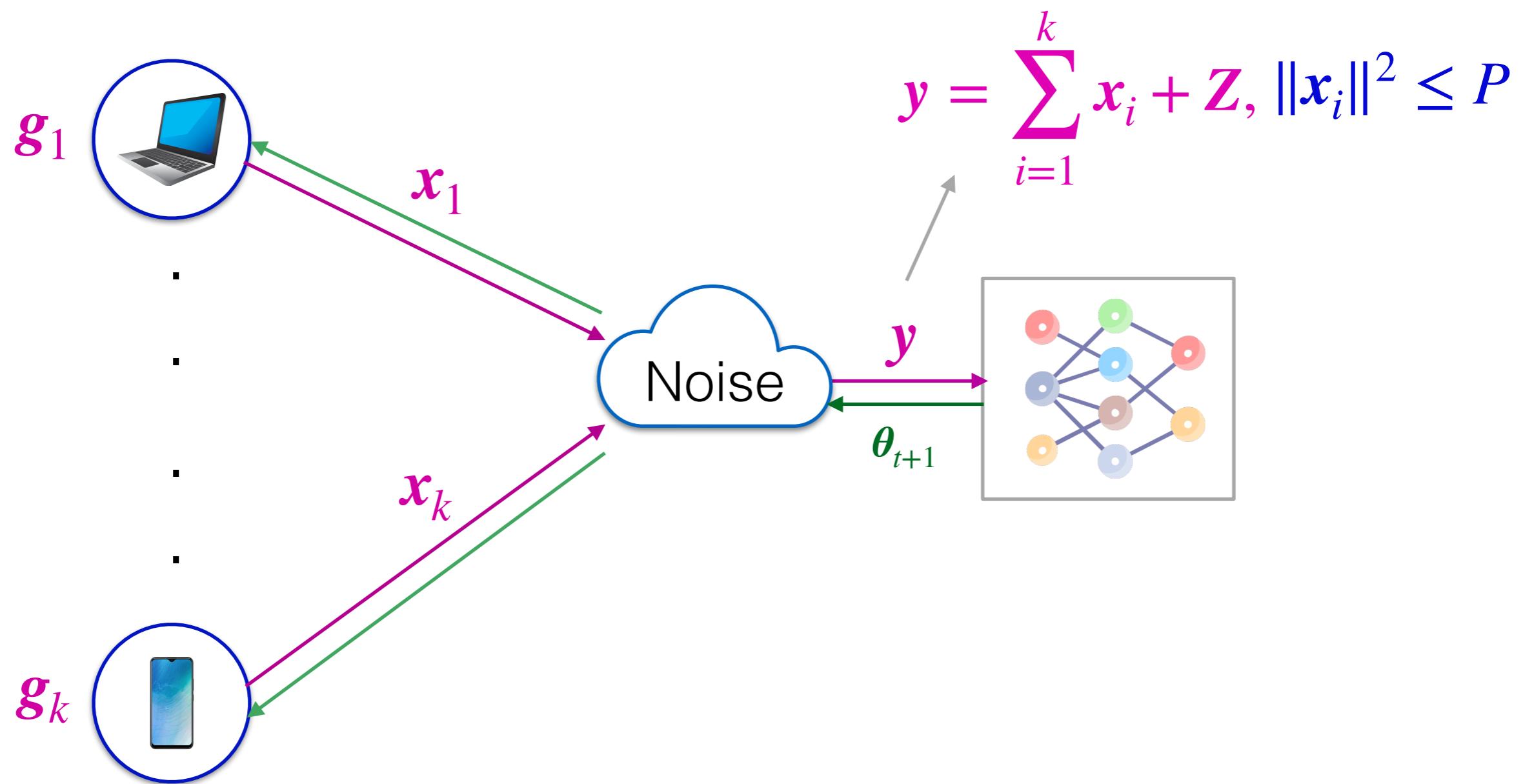
# Noise



# Noise + Power constraint



# Wireless distributed optimization

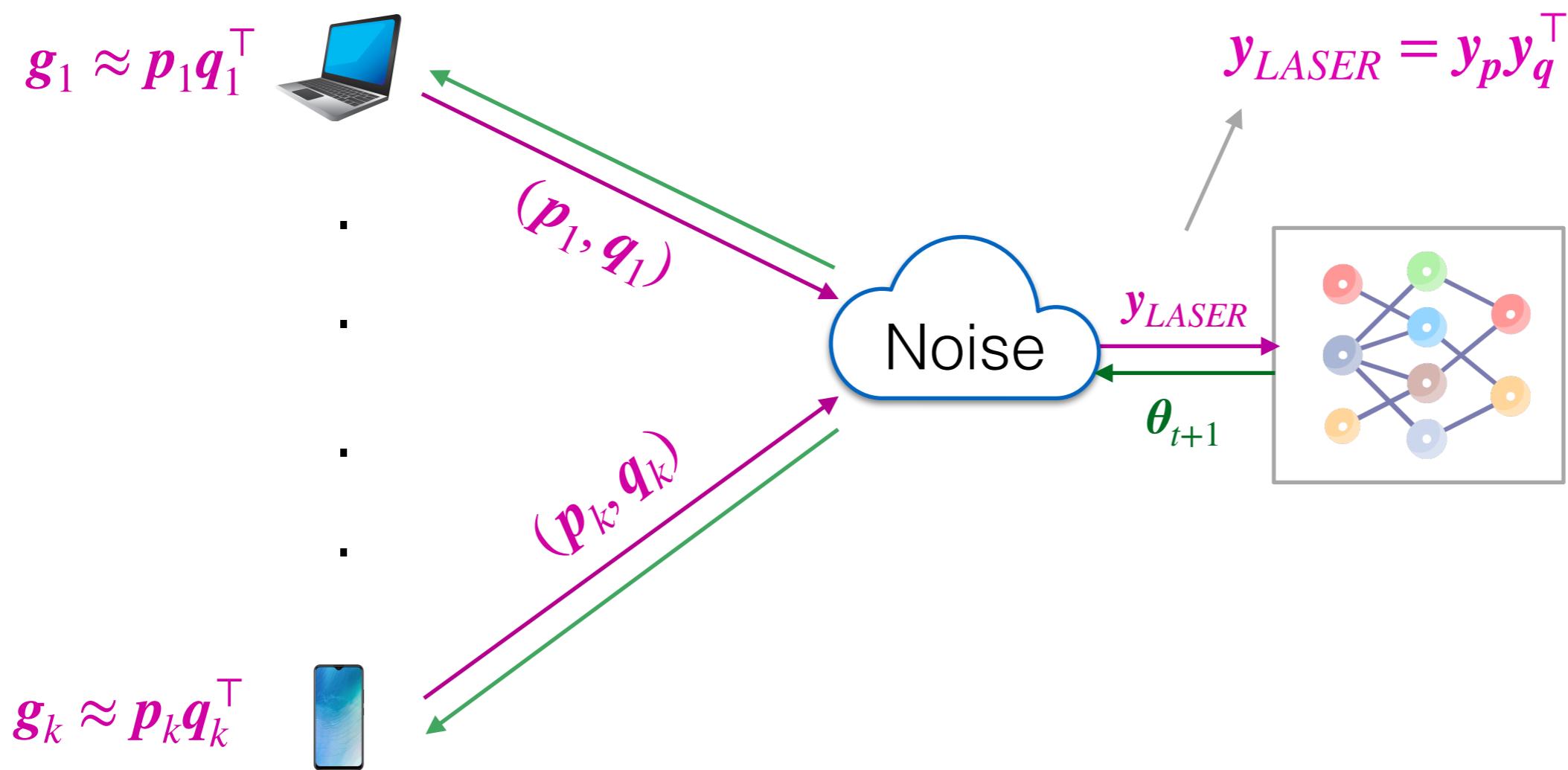


# Main question

Can we design **reliable** and **efficient**  
training algorithms for wireless  
distributed optimization?

# LASER

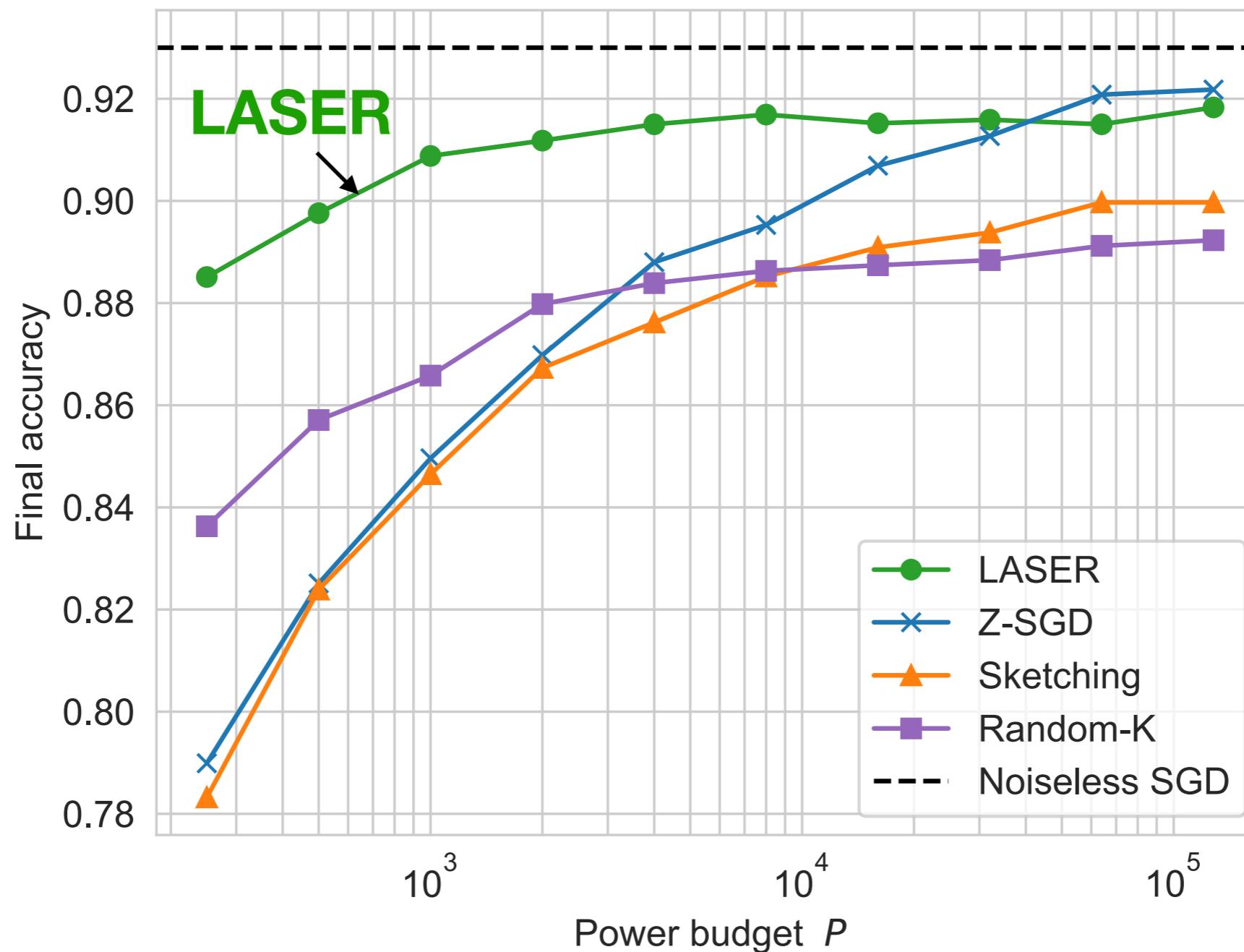
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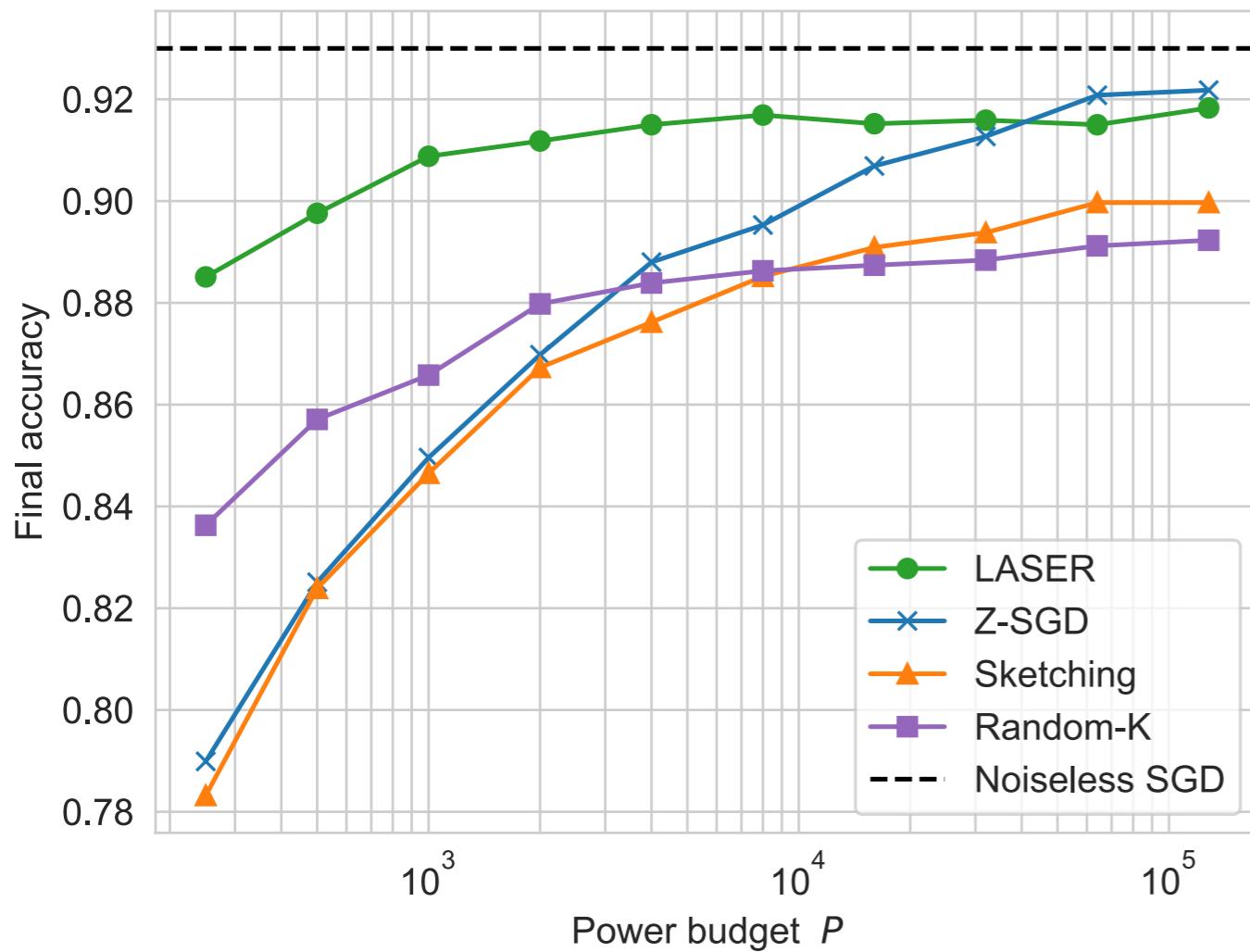
# Results

- CIFAR-10, ResNet-18 (11M params), 16 nodes
- WikiText-103, GPT-2 (123M params), 4 nodes

# CIFAR-10

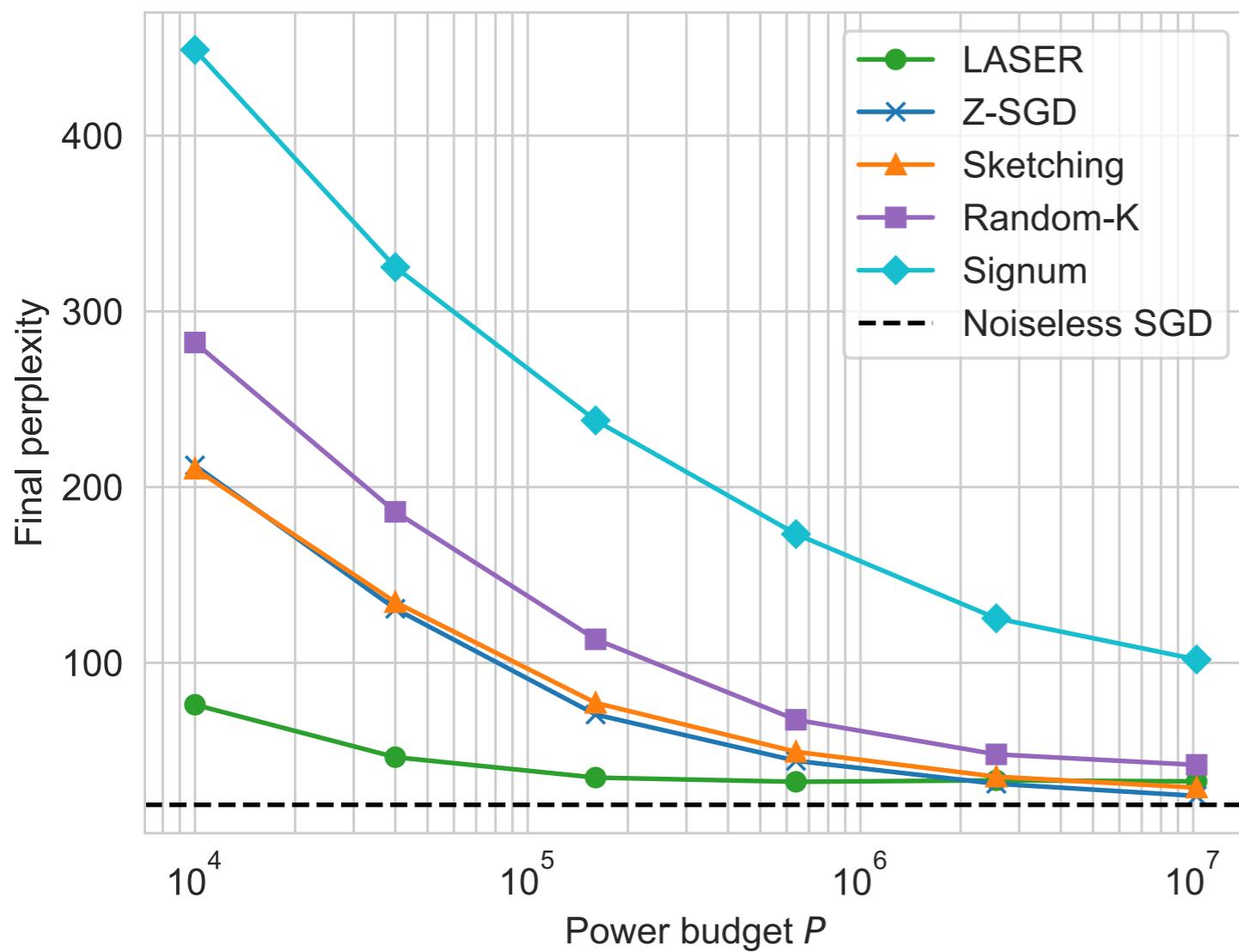


# CIFAR-10



Target	Power required		Reduction
	LASER	Z-SGD	
88%	250	4000	16×
89%	500	8000	16×
90%	1000	16000	16×
91%	2000	32000	16×

# GPT language modeling



Target	Power required		Reduction
	Z-SGD	LASER	
80	160 K	10 K	16×
50	640 K	40 K	16×
40	2560 K	160 K	16×
35	2560 K	160 K	16×

# Communication cost

Algorithm	Data sent per iteration	
Z-SGD	496 MB	(1×)
SIGNUM	15 MB	(33×)
RANDOM-K	99 MB	(5×)
SKETCHING	99 MB	(5×)
A-DSGD	n/a	n/a
LASER	<b>3 MB</b>	(165×)

# Main theoretical result

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- Under some standard assumptions, with  $f_* = \min_{\theta} f(\theta) :$

- $f$  is quasi-convex :

$$\mathbb{E}f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{out}) - f_* = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{1 + \lambda_{LASER}}{T}\right)$$

- $f$  is non-convex :

$$\mathbb{E}\|\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{out})\|^2 = \tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1 + \lambda_{LASER}}{T}}\right)$$

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- $f$  is non-convex :

$$\lambda_{LASER} = \frac{4}{m \cdot SNR} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n \cdot SNR}\right)$$

$$\mathbb{E}\|\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{out})\|^2 = \tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1 + \lambda_{LASER}}{T}}\right)$$

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- $f$  is non-convex :

$$\lambda_{LASER} \leq O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) \lambda_{SGD}$$

$$\mathbb{E}\|\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{out})\|^2 = \tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1 + \lambda_{LASER}}{T}}\right)$$

# Conclusion

- Leverage channel and gradient structure: LASER

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- Future steps: downlink noise, heterogenous nodes

**La Fin**

**Thank you!**

On the academic job market!

Any  
**Question**

