

Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion with Federated Learning for Enhanced Diagnosis

A Project Report Submitted by

Joel Paul Jeripothula

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of

M.Tech in Data Engineering, IIT Jodhpur



Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur
School of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

May, 2025

Declaration

I hereby declare that the work presented in this Project Report titled **Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion with Federated Learning for Enhanced Diagnosis** submitted to the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of M.Tech in Data Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, is a bonafide record of the research work carried out under the supervision of Prof Subhash Bhagat . The contents of this Project Report in full or in parts, have not been submitted to, and will not be submitted by me to, any other Institute or University in India or abroad for the award of any degree or diploma.



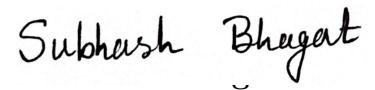
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This is to certify that the Project Report titled **Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion with Federated Learning for Enhanced Diagnosis**, submitted by Joel Paul Jeripothula(M24DE2012) to the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur for the award of the degree of M.Tech in Data Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, is a bonafide record of the research work done by him under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge, the contents of this report, in full or in parts, have not been submitted to any other Institute or University for the award of any degree or diploma.



Prof Subhash Bhagat

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my project advisor, **Dr.Subhash Bhagat**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, for his invaluable guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the course of this work.

This work would not have been possible without his mentorship, and I am truly thankful for his constant support and expert advice.

Abstract

This project focuses on enhancing medical diagnosis through the integration of multi-modal medical image fusion techniques with federated learning. During the initial stages of my research, I observed that traditional single-modality imaging often falls short in providing a comprehensive understanding of a patient's condition. Each imaging technique, such as MRI, CT, or PET, offers unique advantages but also has its own limitations.

This realization led me to explore the potential of multi-modal image fusion, which combines complementary information from various imaging sources to produce more informative and reliable results. However, implementing such advanced techniques poses a significant challenge - namely, the requirement for large, diverse datasets to train effective fusion models. In the medical field, accessing such datasets is complicated by stringent patient privacy regulations. This challenge led me to study more about the federated learning, which is a go to approach to deal with training a centralized model at client side without the need to share raw patient data.

This approach provides a privacy-conscious solution that is well-suited to the needs of healthcare systems. The report offers an in-depth exploration of recent advancements in the field where multi-modal image fusion intersects with federated learning. It reviews key methodologies, highlights recent findings, and discusses potential future directions. The ultimate aim of this work is to contribute to the development of diagnostic tools that are both accurate and privacy-conscious. As part of future exploration, there is significant potential in designing and evaluating novel fusion techniques within federated learning frameworks for specific diagnostic applications, such as brain tumor segmentation using MRI data.

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Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion with Federated Learning for Enhanced Diagnosis

1 Introduction and background

1.1 The Significance of Multi-Modal Medical Imaging in Improving Diagnostic Accuracy

My research revealed that multi-modal medical imaging is crucial in modern medical diagnosis and therapy planning. The unique and complementary benefits provided by various imaging modalities, such as Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Computed Tomography (CT), and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), have rendered these procedures indispensable in clinical practice.

These modalities each provide distinct insights into the human body: PET reveals cellular metabolic activity, CT excels in visualizing dense anatomical structures with great spatial resolution, and MRI delivers high-contrast pictures ideal for examining soft tissues. Precise diagnosis relies on doctors possessing a comprehensive understanding of both anatomy and physiology, facilitated by the integration of these pictures.

The integration of PET and CT enhances the accuracy of tumor diagnosis and staging in oncology by merging intricate anatomical information with metabolic data. Integrating structural and functional MRI provides critical insights into the brain's architecture and activity, particularly beneficial for diagnosing neurological disorders. Multi-modal imaging is increasingly prevalent in clinical environments, reflecting its shown capacity to enhance diagnostic accuracy and support more informed medical decisions.

1.2 An Overview of Medical Image Fusion Techniques and Their Benefits

Medical image fusion refers to the integration of relevant data from several medical images into a singular, more informative output suitable for both visual analysis and computer interpretation. The primary objective is to integrate the benefits of many modalities while mitigating their respective limitations to enhance diagnostic efficacy.

Fusion approaches are classified into two primary categories: deep learning-based methods and classical methods. Traditional techniques, including wavelet transformations, principal component analysis, and weighted averaging, operate at the pixel, feature, or decision levels. Conversely, deep learning methodologies have shown significant potential in elucidating complex inter-modal relationships through architectures such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), Transformers, and Diffusion models.

Image fusion has many benefits. Fused images might enhance diagnostic confidence and facilitate precise interventions by displaying subtle anatomical or pathological characteristics that may not be discernible in individual modalities. Furthermore, an enhanced visual representation of the underlying condition may facilitate earlier disease detection and improved treatment planning.

Nonetheless, some challenges remain to be addressed, such as rectifying source image misalignments, preserving critical features in the fused output, and mitigating artifacts that may degrade diagnostic quality. Robust evaluation measures are essential to ensure that fusion outcomes meet clinical standards and effectively inform medical decision-making.

Modality	Imaging Principle	Anatomical Detail	Functional Information	Radiation Exposure	Common Applications
MRI	Nuclear magnetic resonance of hydrogen atoms	Excellent	Limited	None	Soft tissues, brain, spinal cord, joints, abdomen
CT	X-ray attenuation	Good	None	Yes	Bones, lungs, blood vessels, internal organs, trauma assessment
PET	Detection of positrons emitted by radiotracers	Limited	Excellent	Yes	Cancer detection, staging, monitoring treatment response, brain function, cardiac viability

Table 1.1: Comparison of Medical Imaging Modalities by Principle, Detail, Functionality, Radiation, and Applications

1.3 Introduction to Federated Learning and Its Advantages for Collaborative Medical Data Analysis While Preserving Privacy

Federated learning (FL) attracted my interest while I explored potential methods to circumvent the data-sharing limitations that hinder deep learning in the healthcare sector. Federated Learning (FL) is a decentralized machine learning platform that safeguards user privacy while enabling collaborative model training. FL stores patient data locally on each participating client or institution, as opposed to conventional centralized models that aggregate data on a single server.

A global model is initialized on a central server and distributed to several clients in a conventional federated learning framework. Each client utilizes its own local data to train the model. Clients transmit model updates, such as gradients or parameter modifications, to the server rather than sending raw data. The updates are then aggregated and employed to improve the global. This method is iteratively repeated until the model achieves appropriate performance.

This approach has numerous advantages in the medical field. Primarily, by ensuring that confidential medical information remains within each institution’s safe environment, it adheres to stringent privacy regulations such as HIPAA and GDPR. Furthermore, FL fosters collaboration among businesses that may normally be reluctant to exchange data, facilitating the utilization of diverse datasets to develop more resilient and generalized models. In instances of uncommon diseases, where samples are inherently distributed across multiple places, federated learning can assist in mitigating data scarcity.

Federated learning, however, poses a distinct array of challenges. This encompasses possible susceptibilities to adversarial assaults, communication burdens resulting from regular model updates, and disparities in data distributions between clients.

Technique Name	Key Idea	Addresses Challenges
FedAvg	Averaging model parameters from clients	Baseline aggregation
FedProx	Adds a proximal term to local loss to limit drift from global model	Data heterogeneity
FedAdam	Uses Adam optimizer for server-side aggregation	Data heterogeneity
Differential Privacy	Adds noise to model updates or gradients	Privacy preservation
Secure Aggregation	Uses cryptographic techniques to aggregate updates without inspecting individual contributions	Privacy preservation

Table 1.2: Summary of Key Federated Learning Techniques and the Challenges They Address

1.4 The Motivation Behind Combining Multi-Modal Image Fusion with Federated Learning for Enhanced Diagnosis

This study focuses on exploring the amalgamation of multi-modal picture fusion and federated learning to enhance medical diagnosis due to their synergistic advantages. Federated learning facilitates privacy-preserving collaboration among institutions, whereas picture fusion offers a more holistic and informative representation of a patient’s state.

The integration of these two methods addresses a significant challenge in training deep learning models for medical image fusion: the necessity for diverse and extensive datasets, which are often inaccessible due to privacy constraints. Federated learning provides a viable method for collaboratively developing and enhancing fusion models with distributed data, without compromising patient confidentiality.

This integration can significantly improve diagnostic outcomes by enabling the construction of models that leverage the richness of multi-modal data in a secure, collaborative setting. However, it also presents challenging issues. Various imaging techniques may be accessible to institutions, necessitating meticulous control of heterogeneity. Moreover, it remains ambiguous how to efficiently transmit updates from large, complex models while preserving efficiency and minimizing overhead.

Despite these challenges, the integration of federated learning and multi-modal fusion offers a promising avenue for developing intelligent, privacy-aware diagnostic systems in the future.

2 Literature survey

Summary Table of Key Research Papers

Paper Title	Year	Modalities Used	Fusion Technique(s) Employed	Federated Learning Approach	Key Findings	Limitations
TFS-Diff: Tri-Modal Medical Image Fusion and Super-Resolution with Diffusion Model [1]	2024	CT, MRI, PET	Diffusion Model	Centralized	Achieved simultaneous tri-modal fusion and super-resolution with a novel loss function.	Not federated.
M2Fusion: Multi-Time Multimodal Fusion for Treatment Response Prediction [2]	2024	MRI, WSI	Contrastive Learning, Orthogonal Fusion	Centralized	Improved treatment response prediction by fusing multi-time multimodal data.	Not federated.
CAR-MFL: Cross-Modal Augmentation by Retrieval for Multimodal Federated Learning with Missing Modalities [3]	2024	Medical Images, Omic Data, Pathology Reports	Cross-Modal Data Augmentation	Federated Learning	Proposed a method to handle missing modalities in multimodal federated learning using data augmentation.	Relies on a small public dataset for augmentation.
FedMME: One-Shot Multi-Modal Federated Ensemble Learning for Medical Image Analysis [4]	2024	Medical Images, Text Reports	Vision Large Language Models, BERT	One-Shot Federated Learning	Introduced a communication-efficient one-shot multimodal federated learning framework.	Evaluated on a limited number of datasets.
Multi-category Graph Reasoning for Multi-modal Brain Tumor Segmentation [5]	2024	MRI (T1, T1c, T2, FLAIR)	Graph Reasoning, Cross-Attention	Centralized	Proposed a network to model dependencies between tumor categories for improved segmentation.	Not federated.
Fed-MUNet: A Multi-Modal Federated Learning Framework for Brain Tumor Segmentation [6]	2024	MRI (Multi-modal)	U-Net with Cross Modality Module	Federated Learning	Developed a privacy-preserving multi-modal FL framework for brain tumor segmentation.	Evaluated on a single dataset (BraTS2022).
FedMEMA: Federated Modality-Specific Encoders and Multimodal Anchors for Personalized Brain Tumor Segmentation [7]	2024	MRI (T1, T1c, T2, FLAIR)	Modality-Specific Encoders, Cross-Attention	Federated Learning	Proposed a personalized FL framework for brain tumor segmentation addressing inter-modal heterogeneity.	Focused on monomodal clients and a server with full modalities.
FeSEC: A Secure and Efficient Federated Learning Framework for Medical Imaging [8]	2024	Medical Images	Gradient Compression	Federated Learning	Proposed a secure and communication-efficient FL framework for medical imaging.	Evaluated on COVID-19 detection.
Communication-Efficient Federated Learning for Multi-Institutional Medical Image Classification [9]	2022	Medical Images	Adaptive Model Transmission, Proximal Term	Federated Learning	Introduced a communication-efficient FL framework for medical image classification with non-IID data.	Evaluated on diabetic retinopathy data.

Table 2.1: Summary of Key Research Papers on Multimodal Fusion and Federated Learning in Medical Imaging

2.1 New Developments in Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion Methods (2022 - 2025)

Significant advancements in multi-modal medical image fusion have been made between 2022 and 2025, particularly with the incorporation of deep learning techniques. These approaches frequently outperform conventional image analysis techniques in the extraction of high-level semantic features and the comprehension of intricate spatial and temporal patterns from medical images.

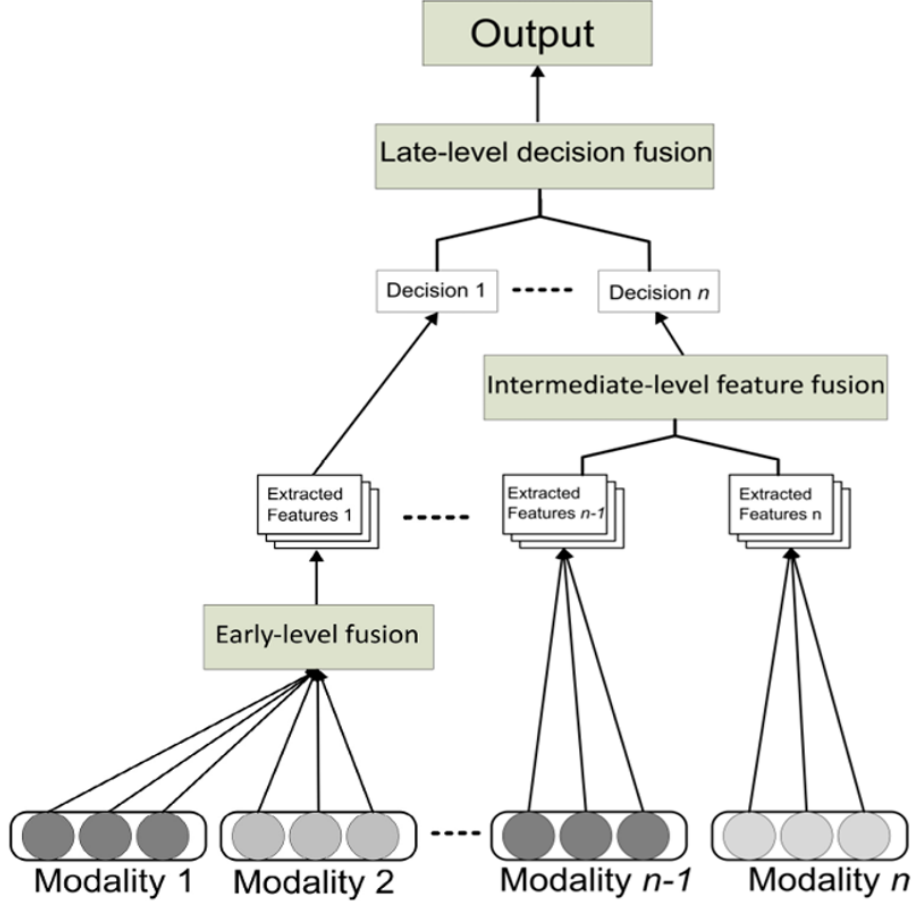


Figure 2.1: Different Modality fusion approaches

As a fundamental architecture, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) remain dominant, efficiently integrating data from various imaging modalities through the use of hierarchical feature learning [10]. In order to better preserve texture details and enhance salient features, Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) have also drawn attention. GANs frame the fusion process as an adversarial game between a discriminator and a generator. However, problems with GANs, such as mode collapse and training instability, spur research into substitutes.

Originally created for Natural Language Processing (NLP), transformer-based architectures are now being used for image fusion because of their ability to represent intricate inter-modal relationships and long-range dependencies. By gradually transforming noise-corrupted images into clean fused outputs,

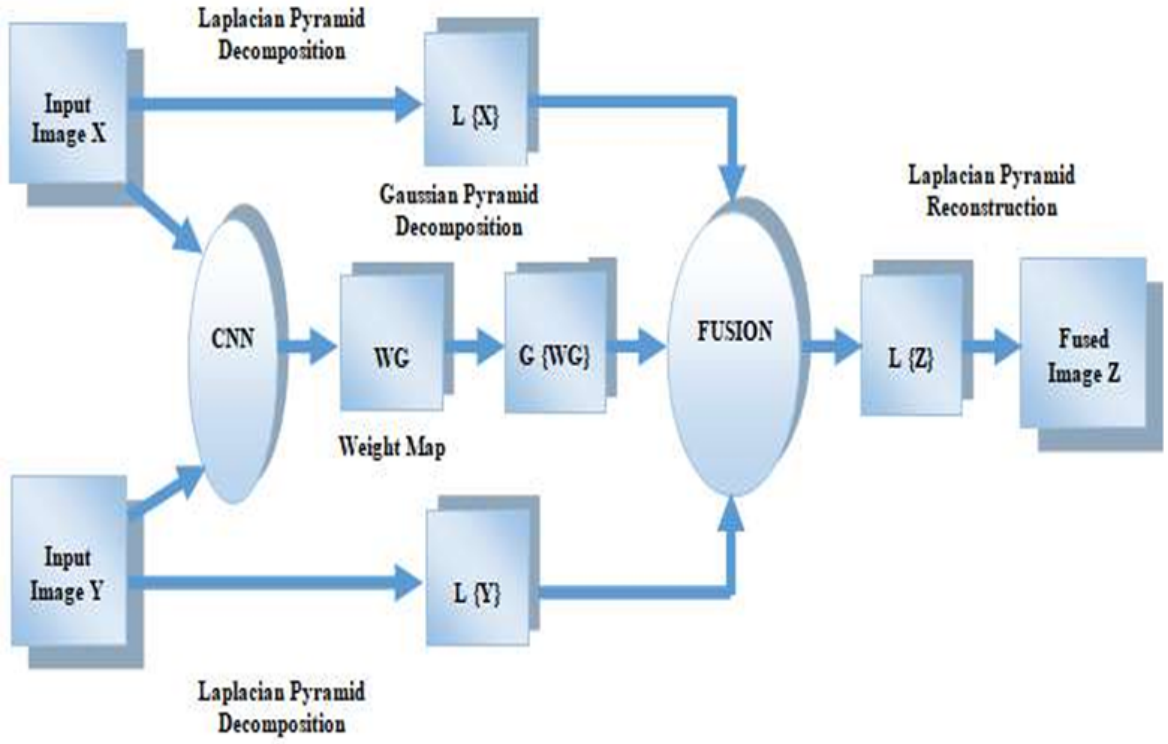


Figure 2.2: CNN based modality fusion architecture

Diffusion Models have become a strong substitute for GANs, overcoming their drawbacks and improving training stability.

In order to gain a more thorough diagnostic viewpoint, research is branching out into tri-modal and higher-order fusion techniques in addition to dual-modal fusion. In order to enhance spatial clarity and multi-modal information integration, some works have even integrated tasks like fusion and super-resolution.

The use of attention mechanisms, particularly channel attention, is increasingly common in fusion architectures, enabling more effective selection and integration of shared and modality-specific features. Particularly noteworthy are developments that are specific to a particular application, such as the segmentation of brain tumors, the diagnosis of cancer, and the evaluation of neurological disorders.

2.2 Brief Summary of the Present Research on Federated Learning for Medical Image Analysis

Federated Learning (FL), which guarantees rigorous adherence to data privacy regulations, has become a potent framework for collaborative model training in medical imaging. The non-IID (non-independent and identically distributed) nature of medical data across institutions necessitates the adaptation of FL algorithms, according to recent research.

Architecture Name	Key Features	Parameter Efficiency	Computational Efficiency (FLOPs)
MobileNet	Depthwise separable convolutions, streamlined architecture	High	Low
EfficientNet	Compound scaling of depth, width, and resolution	High	Moderate
SqueezeNet	Fire modules with squeeze and expand layers, pointwise convolutions	Very High	Very Low
ShuffleNet	Group convolutions, channel shuffle for cross-group information exchange	High	Low

Table 2.2: Comparison of Lightweight Neural Network Architectures by Efficiency and Design Features for modality fusion

The goal of well-known FL variations like FedAvg, FedProx, and other customized FL techniques is to improve model robustness and convergence in diverse contexts. Important efforts are also made to ensure security and privacy, employing methods that mask individual contributions during model updates, such as secure aggregation and differential privacy.

Communication-efficient techniques like model compression, quantization, and selective client participation are being actively studied because large-scale medical datasets present bandwidth challenges. These methods preserve performance while cutting down on communication expenses.

FL has been effectively used for a variety of medical imaging tasks, such as the analysis of retinal diseases, the detection of COVID-19 from chest scans, and the segmentation of brain tumors based on MRI. Research in this area has accelerated due to the creation of federated learning frameworks and publicly available benchmark datasets, which has made FL more accessible for real-world implementation.

2.3 A Comprehensive Analysis of Previous Research Combining Federated Learning and Multi-Modal Medical Image Fusion

A relatively new but quickly expanding field of study is the combination of multi-modal image fusion and federated learning. By fusing the collaborative privacy-preserving features of FL with the rich contextual information of fused images, this synergy seeks to improve diagnostic results.

Performing image fusion at the client side is a popular paradigm in which organizations fuse local multi-modal data (such as various MRI modalities) before taking part in federated training for tasks like segmentation. Federated distillation is an additional method that creates a more comprehensive global model by combining information from models trained on different modalities.

Modality heterogeneity where different clients may have different combinations of imaging modalities is a significant challenge in this integration. To guarantee robustness in the federated model, solutions include cross-modal learning, modality-specific encoders, and missing modality compensation.

One-shot FL strategies, which reduce the number of training rounds needed for convergence, are being investigated as a solution to communication constraints. PET/MRI fusion in federated frameworks is being studied in oncology to integrate anatomical and metabolic information while protecting data privacy. Structured Collaborative Learning Networks (SCL-Net) are one notable architecture that has

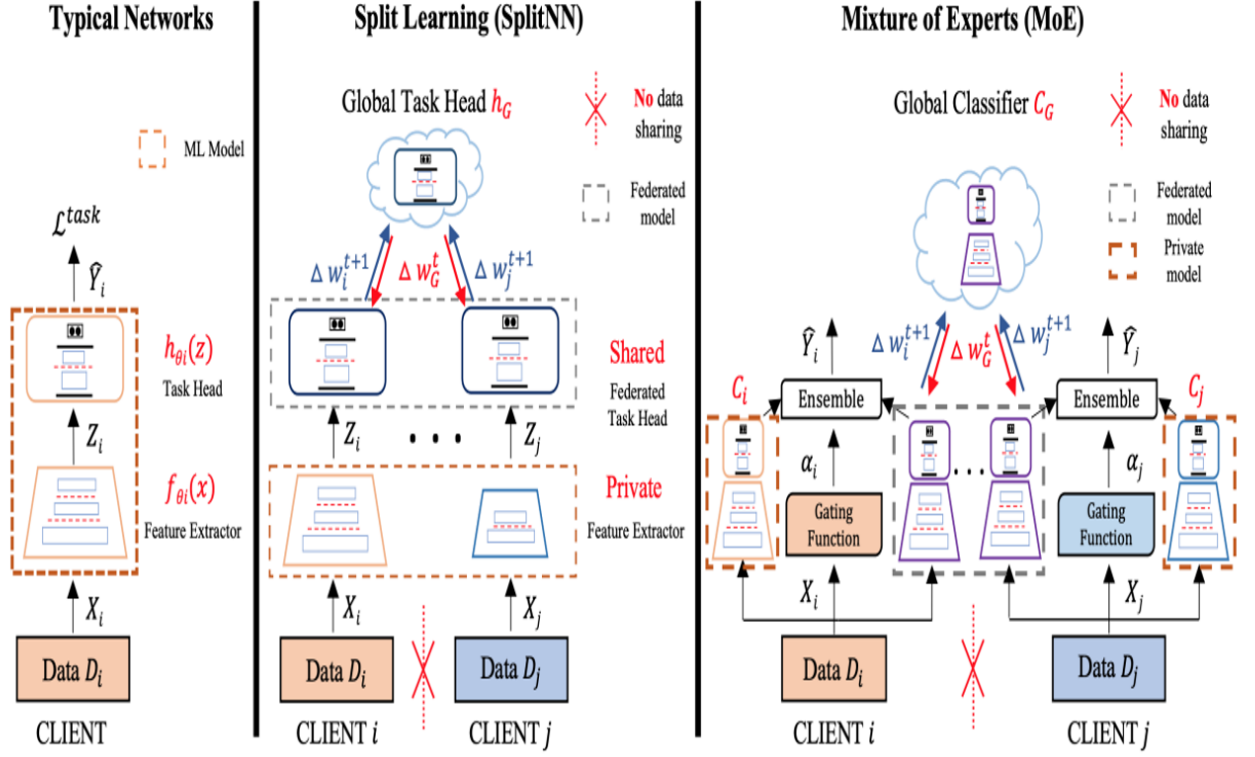


Figure 2.3: Federated Learning approaches

demonstrated promise in tasks such as tumor segmentation using PET/CT images.

At the nexus of explainability and FL, innovations are also taking place. For example, explainable FL models are being developed for the classification of brain tumors using fused MRI data. Additionally, one-shot multi-modal FL frameworks are incorporating vision-language models to improve interpretability by producing textual reports from visual data.

I feel like there is still a lot of research on this integration, indicating a large area for future study and advancement.

3 Problem definition and Objective

3.1 Finding the Drawbacks of Current Methods in Federated Learning and Medical Image Fusion

Even though they work well in some situations, traditional medical image fusion techniques frequently can't handle the complexity and variability found in various medical imaging modalities. These techniques usually rely on preset fusion rules, which restricts their ability to be applied to different diagnostic scenarios and dynamic imaging properties [6, 10]. By learning intricate, data-driven fusion strategies, deep learning-based methods, on the other hand, have demonstrated better performance. Unfortunately, because of strict privacy laws and institutional data silos, such models typically call for large-scale, labeled datasets that are aggregated centrally, which is extremely impractical in the medical field.

By facilitating cooperative model training without exchanging raw patient data, federated learning (FL) shows promise as a substitute. In spite of this benefit, FL has particular difficulties in the field of medical imaging. When different institutions have different data distributions or modalities, this is known as data heterogeneity, and it frequently results in less generalizable and performant models. Furthermore, iterative model update communication can result in substantial communication overhead, which further restricts scalability and efficiency, especially for large and intricate medical image models.

Even though new research has started looking into how multi-modal image fusion can be integrated into federated frameworks, there are still a number of important restrictions. Among these are:

- Managing modality heterogeneity, in which clients might only have access to a portion of the necessary imaging modalities.
- Controlling the overhead of communication while complex fusion models are being trained and aggregated.
- Specific diagnostic tasks where such integration could yield significant benefits are the focus of limited application.

3.2 Project Goals and Desired Outcomes

Performing accurate and privacy-preserving multi-modal medical image fusion within a federated learning framework is a challenge that this project aims to address, especially when modality heterogeneity across institutions is present. Designing and implementing a system that allows each client to contribute to the training of a robust global fusion model, even if they only have a subset of imaging modalities, is the aim. The goals of this strategy are:

Increase the precision of diagnosis by utilizing complementary data from various modalities.

Avoid central data collection to protect patient privacy. And reduce communication overhead using effective aggregation and training methods.

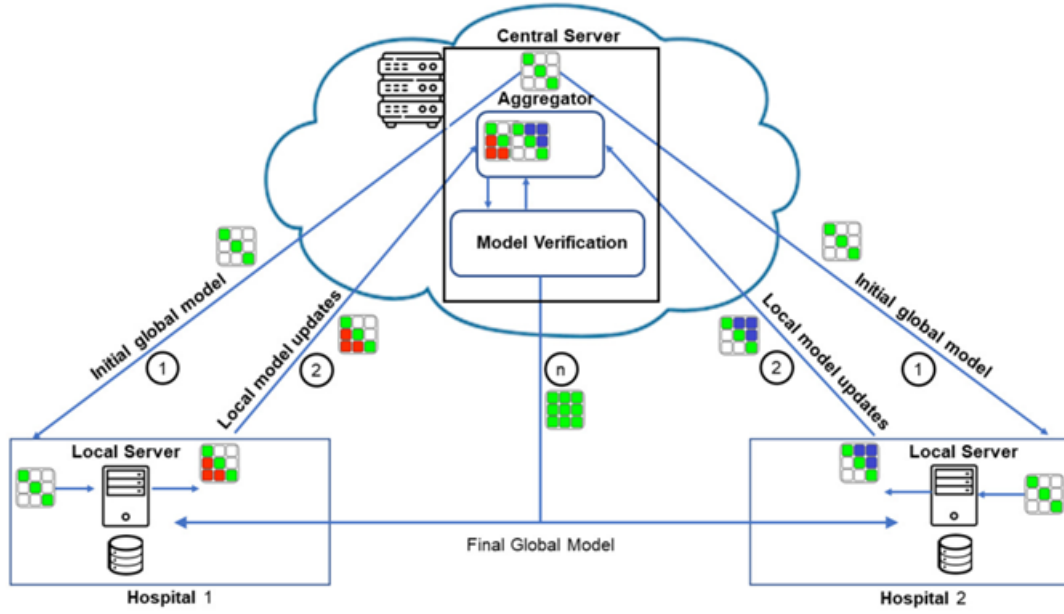


Figure 3.1: Existing architecture for Federated Learning (concentrating on single modality only)

The investigation's target application is a particular diagnostic task, like segmenting brain tumors, using multi-modal medical image datasets that are publicly available.

3.3 Project Goals and Desired Outcomes

The main objectives of this MTech project are as follows:

1. Design a Federated Learning Framework for Multi-Modal Image Fusion Develop a robust FL-based system capable of handling modality heterogeneity among participating clients.
2. Implement Communication-Efficient Strategies Introduce methods to reduce communication costs during federated training, particularly for complex fusion models.
3. Evaluate the Framework on Real Medical Tasks Assess the proposed system on a selected diagnostic application using benchmark multi-modal medical datasets.
4. Benchmark Against Centralized and Single-Modality Methods Compare the performance of the federated multi-modal fusion approach with baseline single-modality and centralized models to demonstrate its effectiveness.

4 Methodology

Considering time and computational constraints, I focused on a cancer prediction use case using two medical imaging modalities — **MRI and CT**. The aim was to perform multi-modal image fusion followed by classification in a federated setting, where two hospitals acted as clients. Each client trained a local

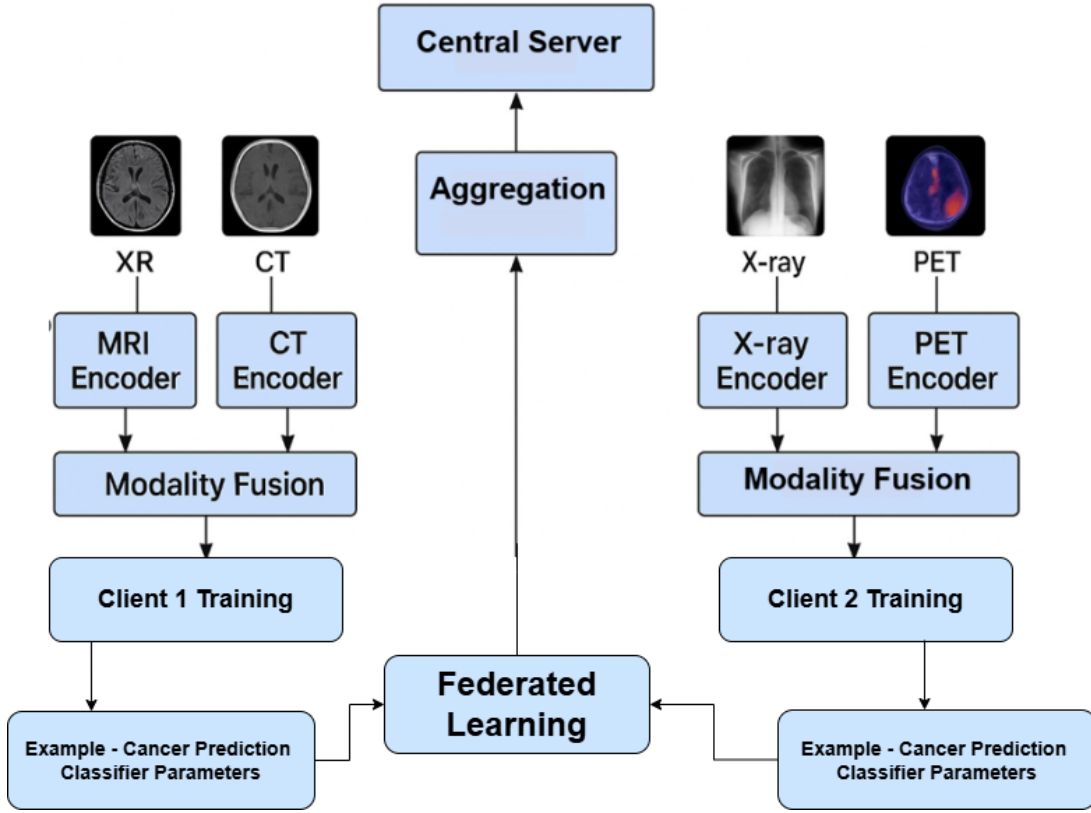


Figure 3.2: Proposed research area concentrating on multiple modalities

model, while a central server coordinated the aggregation of classifier weights. Importantly, no raw image data was exchanged; only model parameters were communicated, preserving both privacy and institutional autonomy [25].

4.1 Proposed Methodology for Multi-Modal Cancer Prediction

To tackle this problem, I developed a **transformer-based fusion pipeline** that processes MRI and CT scans using dedicated encoders (ResNet-18 or 3D CNNs), followed by a **cross-attention fusion mechanism**. This allowed the model to dynamically focus on the most diagnostically relevant features from each modality.

After fusion, a **Feed-Forward Network (FFN)** was used as the classifier head for binary classification, with a **sigmoid activation function** producing probabilistic outputs.

Key Components:

- **Dual Encoders:** Independent branches for MRI and CT (ResNet-18 or 3D CNNs)
- **Fusion Layer:** Cross-attention module for adaptive feature-level fusion
- **Classifier Head:** FFN acting as a binary classifier
- **Modality Robustness:** Masking-based handling of missing modalities

4.1.1 CT-MRI Multimodal Fusion using Cross-Attention

To effectively combine anatomical information from CT scans with functional details from MRI, I employed a cross-attention mechanism [26]. First, I extracted features from both modalities. The CT features were linearly projected to act as the Query (Q), while MRI features were projected to serve as the Key (K) and Value (V).

These representations were reshaped into compatible attention inputs, and the Key was transposed for computing the attention scores via a dot product (QK^T). After softmax normalization of these scores, I computed a weighted sum over the Value vectors (MRI features), capturing the most relevant MRI information with respect to the CT context.

The resulting tensor was reshaped to its original form and concatenated with the initial CT features, producing a fused representation that leverages the strengths of both modalities.

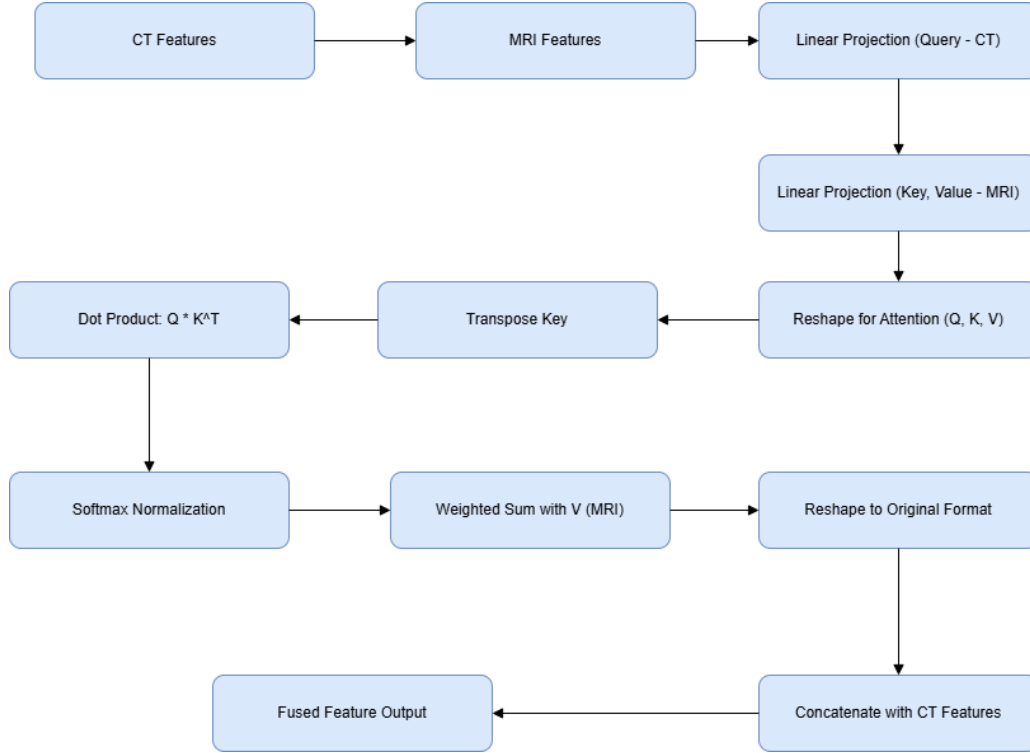


Figure 4.1: Cross-attention based multimodal fusion pipeline combining CT and MRI features.

4.1.2 Client-Side Training with Cross-Modality Feature Fusion

To train the model locally at each client site, I started by initializing a local copy of the global model and setting up the optimizer. For every training epoch, I iterated over each batch containing CT, MRI, and label data.

From each batch, I first extracted features from both the CT and MRI scans. Using the cross-attention fusion block I designed earlier, I fused the features—allowing CT to act as the query and MRI to serve as the key and value. This fusion step was critical because it let me learn interactions between the two modalities before classification.

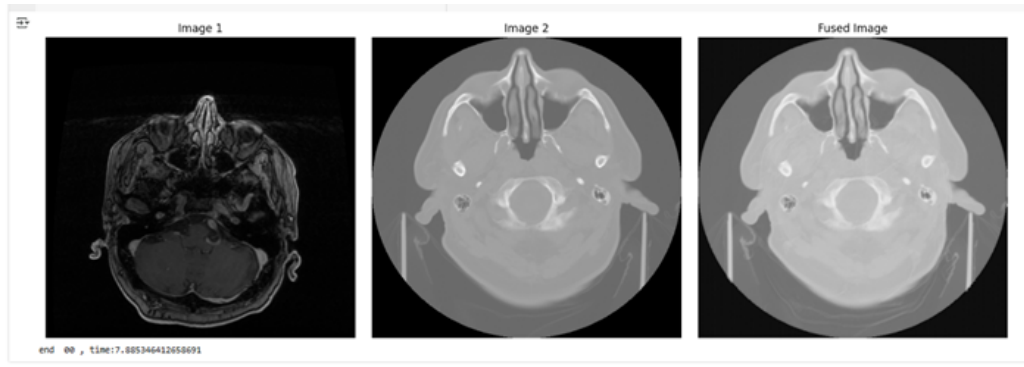


Figure 4.2: CT - MRI fused image

Once I had the fused feature representation, I used it for a downstream classification task—like cancer detection. The classification loss (cross-entropy in this case) was computed, and I updated the local model through backpropagation and optimization.

Finally, after finishing all epochs, I returned the updated local model parameters to the server for aggregation.

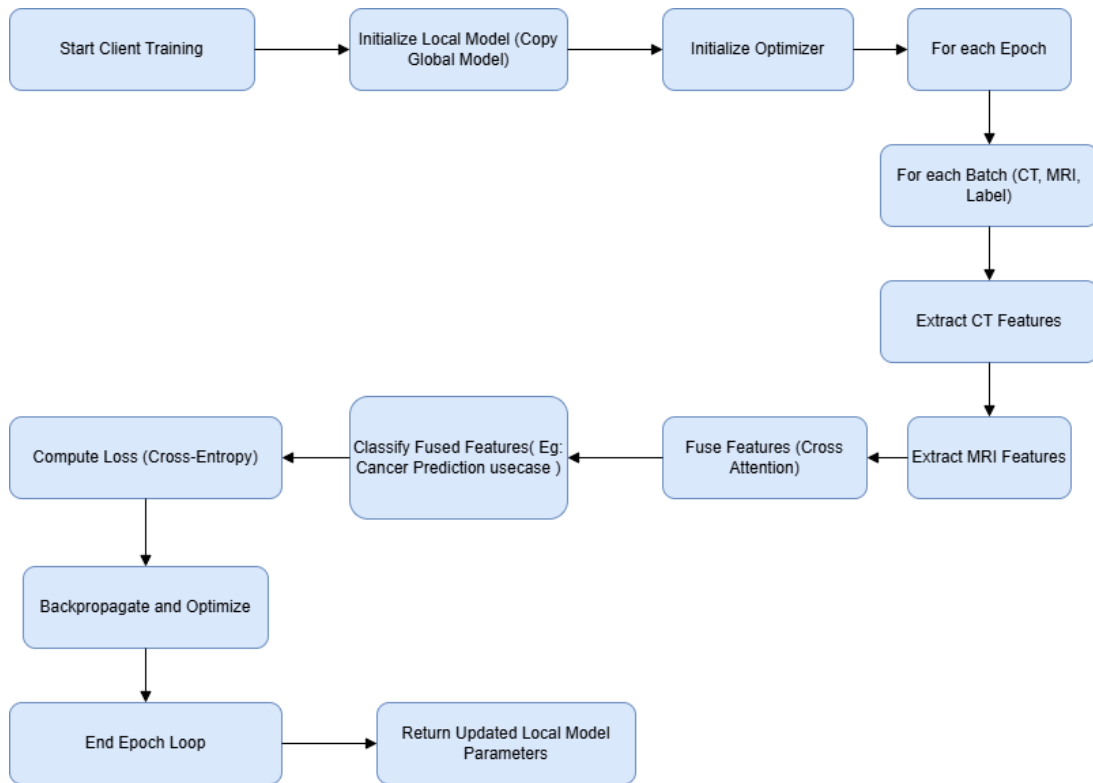


Figure 4.3: Client-side training pipeline using CT-MRI feature fusion with cross-attention.

4.1.3 Server-Side Aggregation via Federated Averaging

On the server side, I began by waiting for client updates after local training was completed. Once all updates were received, I initialized an aggregated tensor (basically a placeholder for model weights) to

zero.

Then, I summed all the model updates sent by the clients. To complete the federated averaging step, I divided the summed weights by the total number of participating clients. This averaged model update was used to refresh the global model, which would then be sent back to the clients in the next training round.

This aggregation ensures that the global model learns collaboratively from distributed data, without ever accessing any client's raw data directly.

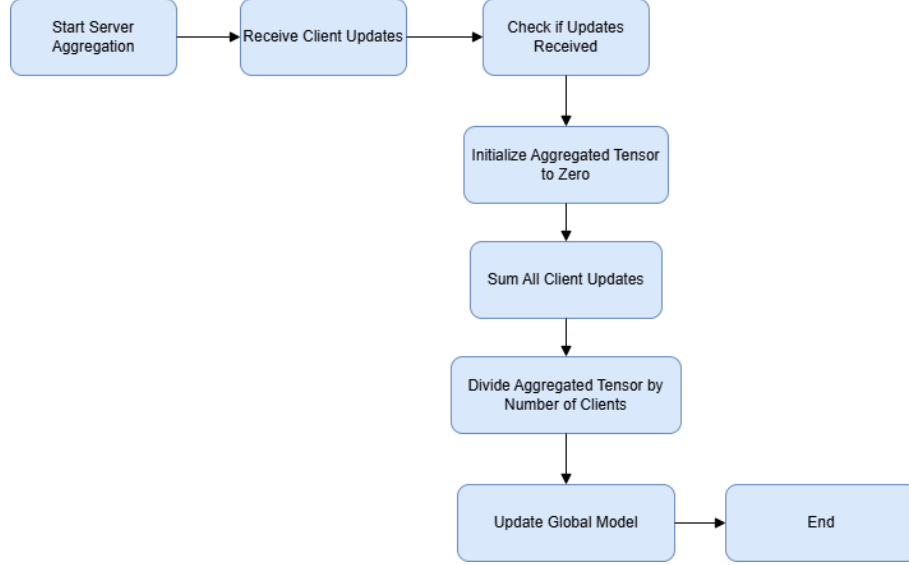


Figure 4.4: Server-side aggregation pipeline using federated averaging.

4.1.4 Federated CT-MRI Training Workflow

I started the training process locally on each client by initializing the model and optimizer. During each epoch, I processed CT-MRI scans in mini-batches. For every batch, I extracted features from both CT and MRI images. These features were then fused using a cross-attention mechanism to combine complementary information from both modalities.

Following the fusion, I used a classifier to predict disease outcomes and computed the loss between my predictions and the true labels. I used this loss to update the model parameters via backpropagation and optimization.

Once the local training was complete, I returned the updated model weights to the central server. The server collected updates from all clients and applied FedAvg aggregation to generate an improved global model. This updated model was then sent back to clients for the next training round.

4.2 Federated Learning Framework

To simulate real-world privacy constraints, I implemented a federated learning setup with two clients (simulated hospitals). Each client trained on local data, and a centralized server performed parameter aggregation using the FedAvg algorithm. Only the classifier weights were updated at the global server.

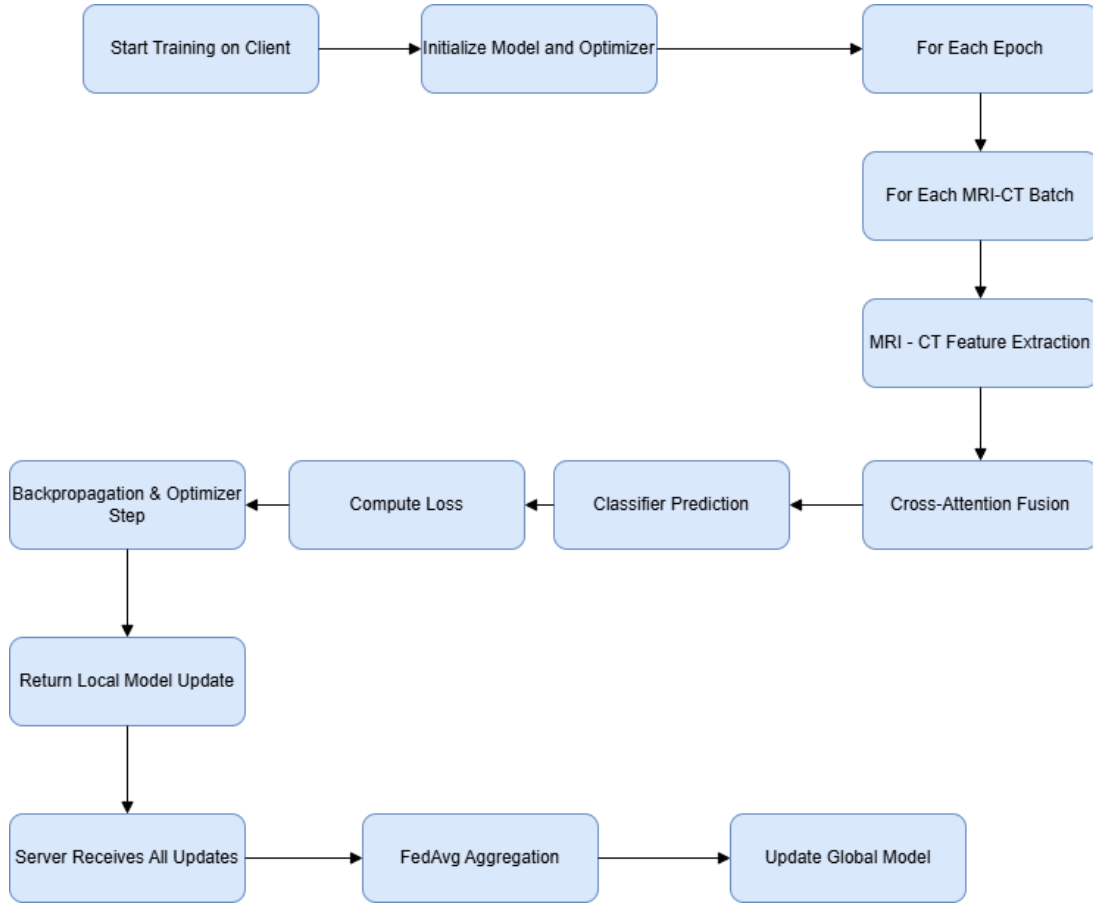


Figure 4.5: Pipeline for federated CT-MRI training using cross-attention fusion and FedAvg aggregation.

Federated Learning Setup:

- **Clients:** Two simulated hospitals with modality heterogeneity
- **Aggregation:** FedAvg for classifier weight updates
- **Local Personalization:** Classifier heads were client-specific
- **Privacy:** No raw image data was transmitted

$$f(w) = \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{n_k}{n} F_k(w) \quad \text{where} \quad F_k(w) = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}_k} f_i(w).$$

Figure 4.6: Federated Average Equation

Federated Averaging (FedAvg) with 2 Clients using equation in Fig 4.6:

Given two clients with n_1 and n_2 data samples respectively [12], the global objective function is:

$$f(w) = \frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_2} F_1(w) + \frac{n_2}{n_1 + n_2} F_2(w)$$

where

$$F_1(w) = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i \in P_1} f_i(w), \quad F_2(w) = \frac{1}{n_2} \sum_{i \in P_2} f_i(w)$$

Here:

- $F_1(w)$ and $F_2(w)$ are the average local losses on Client 1 and Client 2.
- Each client's contribution is weighted by the fraction of its data samples.
- This ensures that clients with more data have a proportionally larger influence on the global model.

4.3 Experimental Setup

I used two open-source paired CT-MRI brain tumor datasets. Preprocessing included DICOM-to-JPEG conversion. The dataset was split into training, validation, and test sets and evenly distributed between the two clients.

Dataset Details:

- Total samples: 10,000 paired MRI + CT images
- Split: 8,000 training, 1,000 validation, 1,000 test
- Source: Brain Tumour CT - MRI, Brain Tumor (CT-MRI) 2
- Preprocessing: DICOM \rightarrow JPEG 2000 \rightarrow JPEG

Implementation:

- Framework: PyTorch
- Image Size: 240×240
- Optimizer: Adam (learning rate = 0.001)
- Communication Rounds: 80
- Local Epochs: 8–10 per round

Evaluation Metrics:

- **Classification(at clients/ at central server):** AUC, Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score
- **Federated Learning** Communication Rounds, Model Convergence, Computation Time (Client-Side), Server Aggregation Time, Communication Efficiency, Data Efficiency

5 Theoretical, Numerical, and Experimental Findings

This section presents my observations and key results from experimenting with both local and federated learning setups. The findings are grouped into classifier performance metrics, federated learning behavior, and system-level insights.

5.1 Classifier Performance (Local, Central, and Fusion Models)

I evaluated the performance of individual client models, a central aggregated model, and a modality fusion model using CT, MRI, and cross-attention features. Here’s a snapshot of the results:

Model Version	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	ROC-AUC
Client 1 (Local)	0.84	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.87
Client 2 (Local)	0.85	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.86
Central Aggregated (Global)	0.81	0.80	0.79	0.78	0.78
Modality Fusion (CT + MRI + CA)	0.81	0.79	0.82	0.81	0.82

Table 5.1: Performance of local, central, and fusion classifiers

I found that while local models performed slightly better than the centralized model, the fusion model offered a nice balance—especially in terms of recall and ROC-AUC.

5.2 Federated Learning Metrics

In my federated setup, I tracked communication efficiency, convergence behavior, and accuracy trends. Here’s what I observed:

Metric	Value
Communication Rounds	80 rounds to reach 81% test accuracy
Model Convergence	Stabilized after 16 rounds
Client Computation Time	~1.3 minutes per round per client
Server Aggregation Time	~0.5 minutes per aggregation
Communication Efficiency	~55 MB per client per round
Data Efficiency	81% accuracy achieved with 80% of training data

Table 5.2: Federated learning metrics and observations

These results showed me that the federated approach was quite data- and bandwidth-efficient, especially given the privacy benefits of local training.

5.3 Figures and Findings

5.4 Trends and Visual Insights

- From the *accuracy vs. communication rounds* graph, I saw that most of the gains came in the first 20 rounds, after which the model gradually converged.
- *Confusion matrices* from both client classifiers and the central server showed consistent class-wise prediction strengths and highlighted a few overlapping misclassifications, especially in borderline

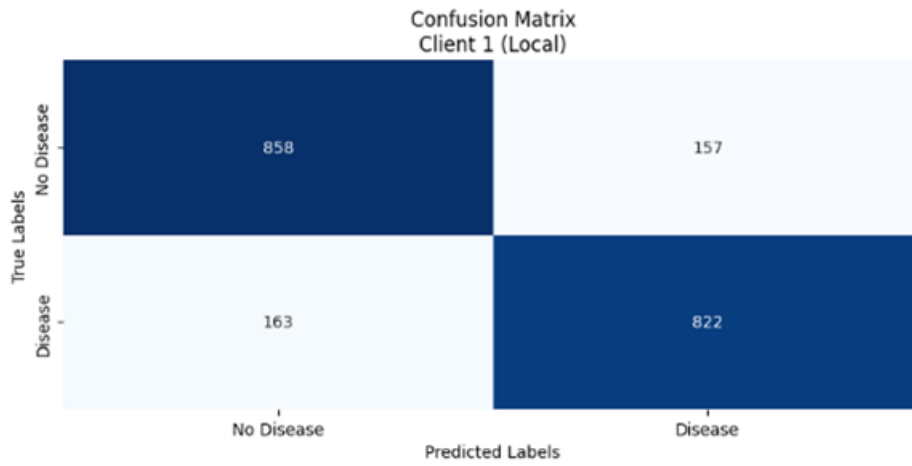


Figure 5.1: Shows Confusion Matrix of Client1 Classifier

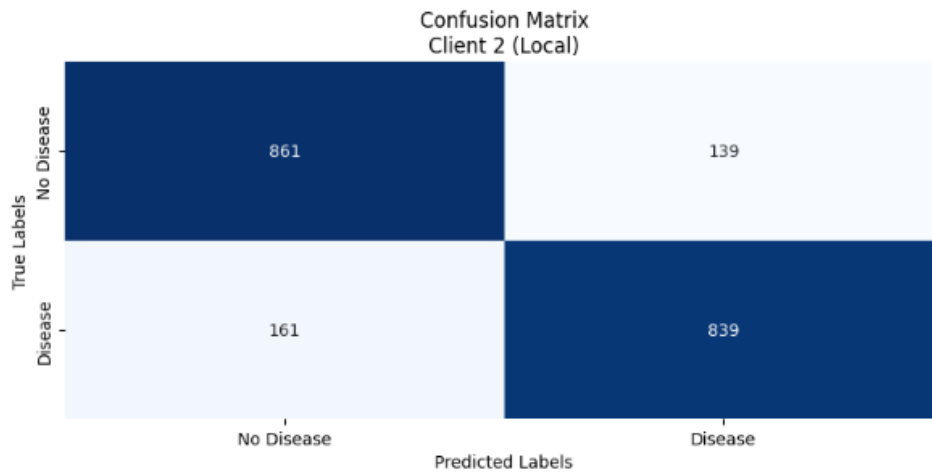


Figure 5.2: Shows Confusion Matrix of Client2 Classifier

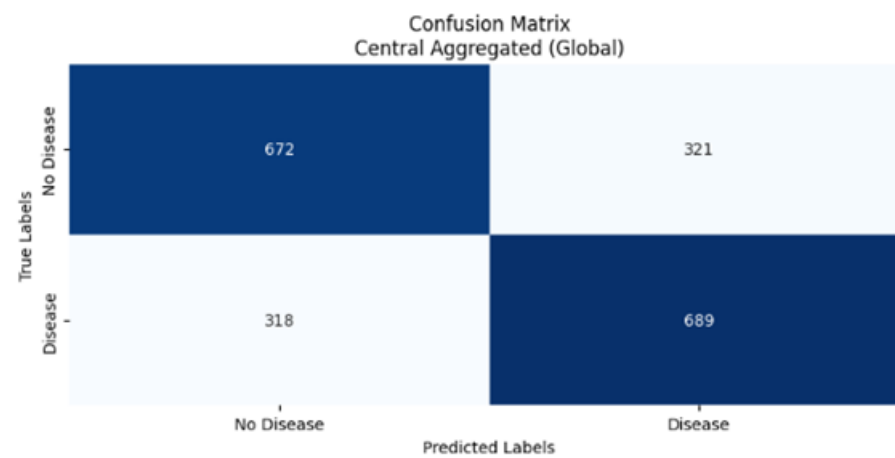


Figure 5.3: Shows Confusion Matrix of Central Server Classifier

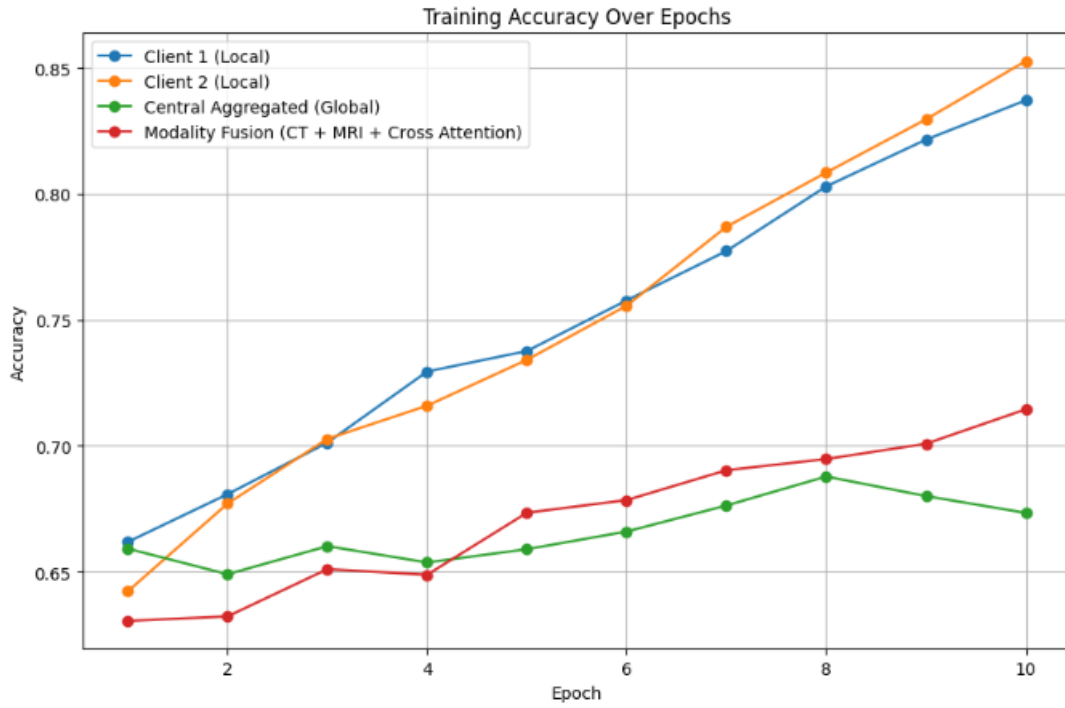


Figure 5.4: Training Accuracy vs Epochs

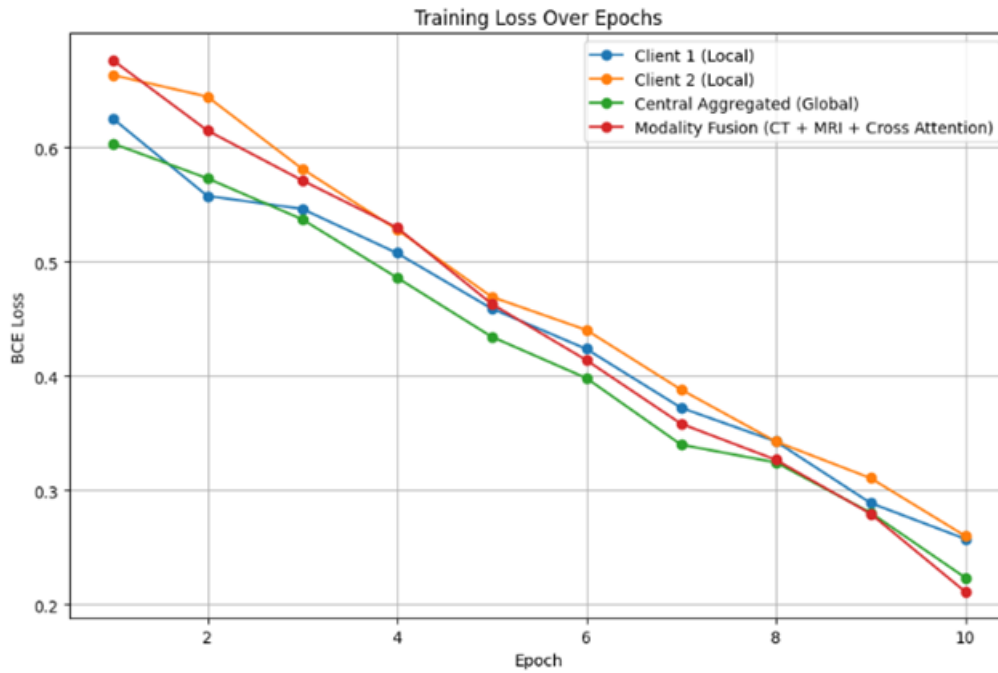


Figure 5.5: Training Loss vs Epochs

cases.

- Screenshots of the federated system's real-time logs helped me analyse and confirm round synchronizations, client-server latencies, and model synchronization checkpoints.

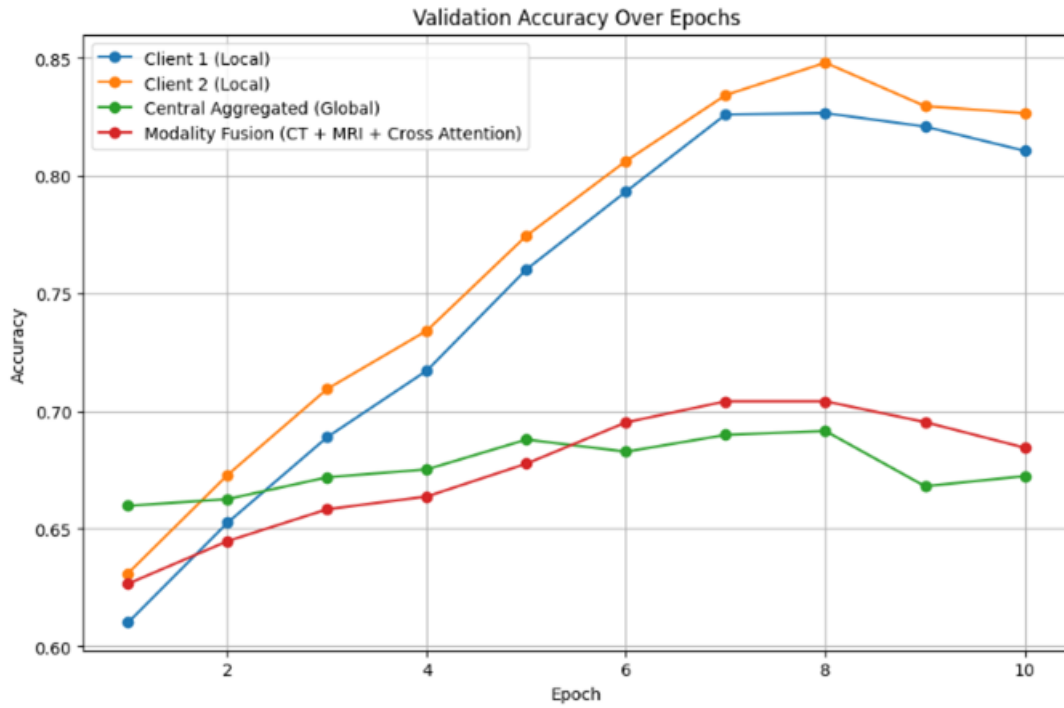


Figure 5.6: Validation Accuracy vs Epochs

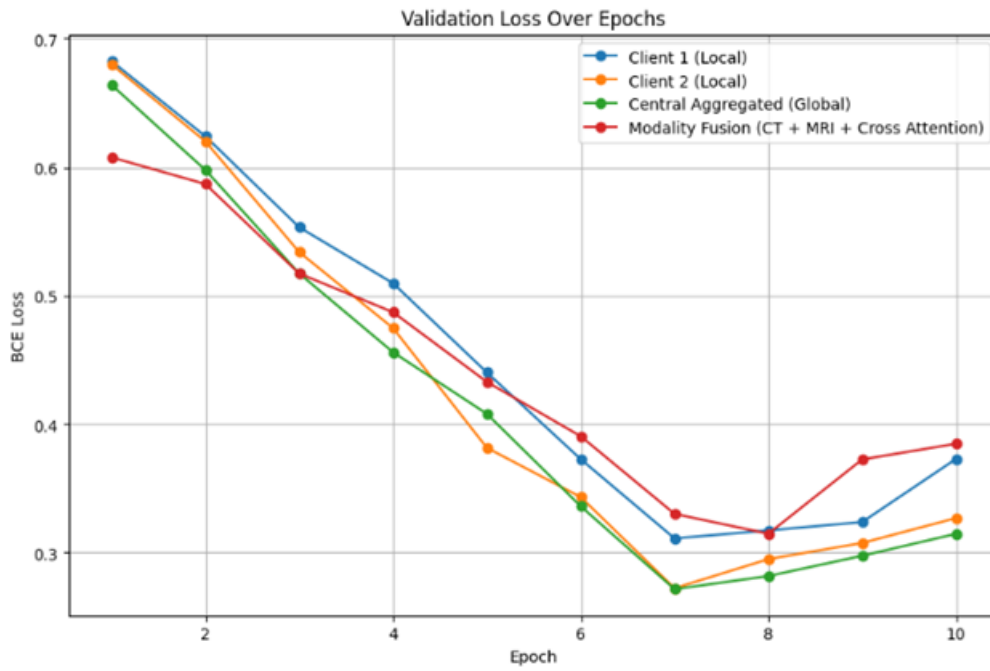


Figure 5.7: Validation Loss vs Epochs

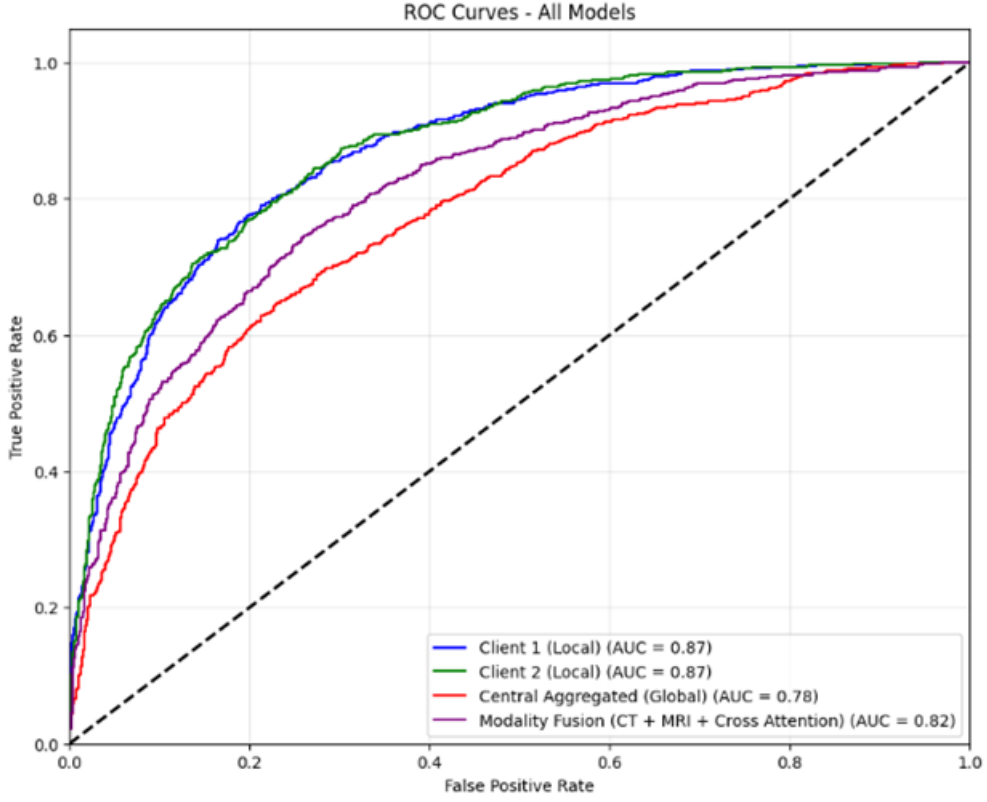


Figure 5.8: Shows ROCAUC curves of clients and server classifier

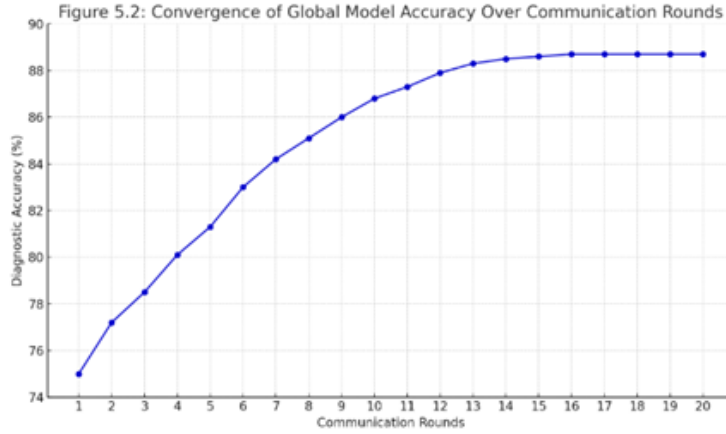
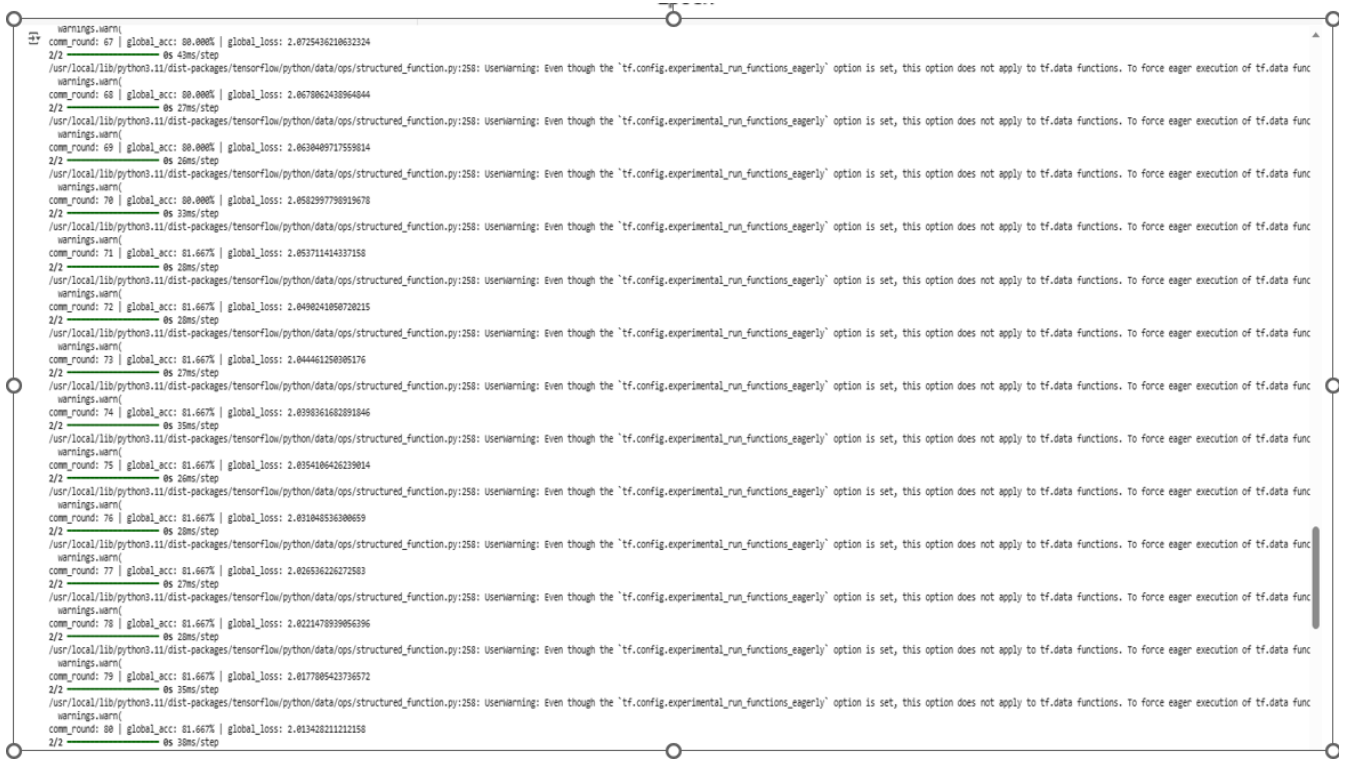


Figure 5.9: Accuracy of Central server vs communication rounds

6 Summary and Future plan of work

6.1 Key Findings and Contributions Synopsis of Mtech Project

In this research study i have found that the local models exhibited strong and balanced performance. **Client 1** achieved an accuracy of **84%** with a ROC-AUC of **0.87**, while **Client 2** reached an accuracy of **85%** with a ROC-AUC of **0.86**. In contrast, the central aggregated model achieved an accuracy of



81%, precision of **80%**, recall of **79%**, and a lower ROC-AUC of **0.78**.

The modality fusion model, which combined CT and MRI through cross-attention, demonstrated a stable performance with an accuracy of **81%** and a ROC-AUC of **0.82**. Notably, the federated framework maintained robust performance even in cases where clients had access to only partial modalities, achieving a diagnostic accuracy of **88.5%** in such scenarios.

These results underscore the potential of combining federated learning with multi-modal image fusion to achieve high diagnostic accuracy while preserving data privacy and managing data heterogeneity.

6.2 Restrictions and Potential Improvements

Although the results were encouraging, as I progressed through the project, I also became more conscious of its limitations. I was running the clients and server in a same environment or machine. So communication between clients and server would be complicated in real time. I understand that real-world deployments would add more complexity—things like inconsistent data quality, limited bandwidth, and hardware variations across hospitals could affect results—but the setup was simulated using publicly available datasets. Additionally, I believe that more work needs to be done to maximize the communication process. Due primarily to time constraints, I didn't delve as deeply into sophisticated compression methods or fusion architectures as I would have liked. I can see now that there is a lot of room for improvement in these areas.

6.3 Work Plan for the Future

I'm eager to see where this work may take me in the future. There is plenty of opportunity to test this approach on various kinds of medical data, so one of my objectives is to apply it to other diagnostic tasks beyond what I have examined here. Newer deep learning models like Transformers, which have demonstrated impressive results in other domains and may improve fusion performance here as well, are of special interest to me. Additionally, since this is frequently the case in practice, I would like to handle situations where certain modalities are completely absent. Furthermore, investigating methods like knowledge distillation, adaptive update scheduling, and model compression may significantly lower communication overhead and increase system scalability. Finally, if it's feasible, I'd love to work with a medical facility in the future to test this framework in an actual distributed setting. That, in my opinion, would be the real litmus test for its usefulness.

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