

Differential and TriPhase Adaptive Learning-Based Privacy-Preserving Model for Medical Data in Cloud Environment

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Abstract—This letter proposes a novel secure data protection model for privacy preservation in the cloud environment by partitioning, sanitizing, and analyzing the data effectively to improve the model's privacy. Several experiments and comparisons of the proposed model with existing works indicate that it protects data with high accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score up to 87.03%, 84.87%, 87.03%, and 85.00%, for diverse datasets with a relative improvement up to 15.89%, 27.73%, 15.89%, and 21.44%, respectively.

Index Terms—Secure communication, cloud computing, K-anonymity, differential privacy, healthcare, deep neural network.

I. INTRODUCTION

DATA sharing and analysis is essential for pathology centers to enhance the utility and quality of medical services. Most of the centres have shifted or planned to shift their data to the cloud platform because of its storage and analysis services at lower cost [1]. The outsourced data can be accessed by researchers or laboratories to monitor and track the spread of infectious diseases. The centers are hesitant to share their sensitive data to the cloud or any third party since these may misuse and leak the data to other parties without owners' consent [2]. Thus, protecting shared data across the entities while performing analysis effectively has become one of the most challenging problems in cloud environments.

The key state-of-arts models have been reported to address this challenge. A privacy preserving machine learning (PMLM) model [3] encrypted the data, added noise in entire partially decrypted data, and analyzed it using existing classifiers. Further, deep learning is exploited to perform classification on encrypted data through deep neural network in privacy-preserving deep learning (PDLM) model [4]. Moreover, a machine learning and probabilistic analysis-based model (MLPAM) [5] shared encrypted data and performed analysis on decrypted noised data using existing classifiers while securing the communication. The classification over encrypted data, partially decrypted or entire

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TABLE I
NOTATIONS AND MEANINGS

PT : pathology centers; CSP : cloud service provider; LB : laboratories; D : data;
n : number of pathology centers; m : number of laboratories; D^S : sensitive data;
D^{NS} : non-sensitive data; D_N^S : synthetic data; N : noise; \bar{D}_i : aggregated data;
CM : classification model; R : random mechanism; γ : scaling parameter;
ϵ : privacy budget; Δ : sensitivity; P_b : probability; \bar{D}^N : preprocessed data;
ω : weight; ψ : network size; δ : mutation learning rate; f : query function;
CL : class label; CA : classification accuracy; P : precision; R : recall; F_S : f1-score;

noised data through existing classifiers resulted in high computation time, low computation accuracy, and reduced data utility which is insufficient in the real environments and required to be upgraded.

To improve data and its communication security while maintaining utility and reducing computation time, this letter proposes a novel Differential and TriPhase adaptive learning-based Privacy-Preserving Model (DT-PPM) for medical data protection by enabling secure data storage, analysis, and sharing in the cloud environment. Unlike existing works, DT-PPM partitions the data based on its sensitivity employing k-anonymization, injects noise in selected data through Laplace mechanism to make it private and reduce perturbation's impact. It shares the integrated data with the cloud where an effective analysis is performed through multi-layered feed-forward deep neural network (MFNN) which is trained with developed TriPhase Adaptive Differential Evolution (TADE) learning algorithm to optimize learning of neural network. Table I consists of notation and their descriptions.

II. PROPOSED MODEL

Let n pathology centers $\{PT_1, PT_2, \dots, PT_n\} \in \mathbb{PT}_{id}$ possess their data $\{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n\} \in \mathbb{D}$ that needs to be shared with m laboratories $\{LB_1, LB_2, \dots, LB_m\} \in \mathbb{LB}$ and CSP for analysis, storage, and utilization. Fig. 1 represents the workflow of the proposed model consisting of three entities: 1) *Pathology Centers (PT_{id})*: it generates data and transfers it to the cloud platform. PT_{id} is treated as a trusted entity because owners will not leak their own data. 2) *Cloud Service Provider (CSP)*: it receives sanitized data from PT_{id} and provides storing, computing, and sharing services. CSP is deemed an untrusted entity since it is curious to learn the information. 3) *Laboratories (LB_{id})*: it acquires sanitized data from CSP and is considered an untrusted entity.

To protect the data \mathbb{D} , PT_{id} partitions it into sensitive $\{D_1^S, D_2^S, \dots, D_n^S\} \in \mathbb{D}^S$ and non-sensitive $\{D_1^{NS}, D_2^{NS}, \dots, D_m^{NS}\} \in \mathbb{D}^{NS}$.

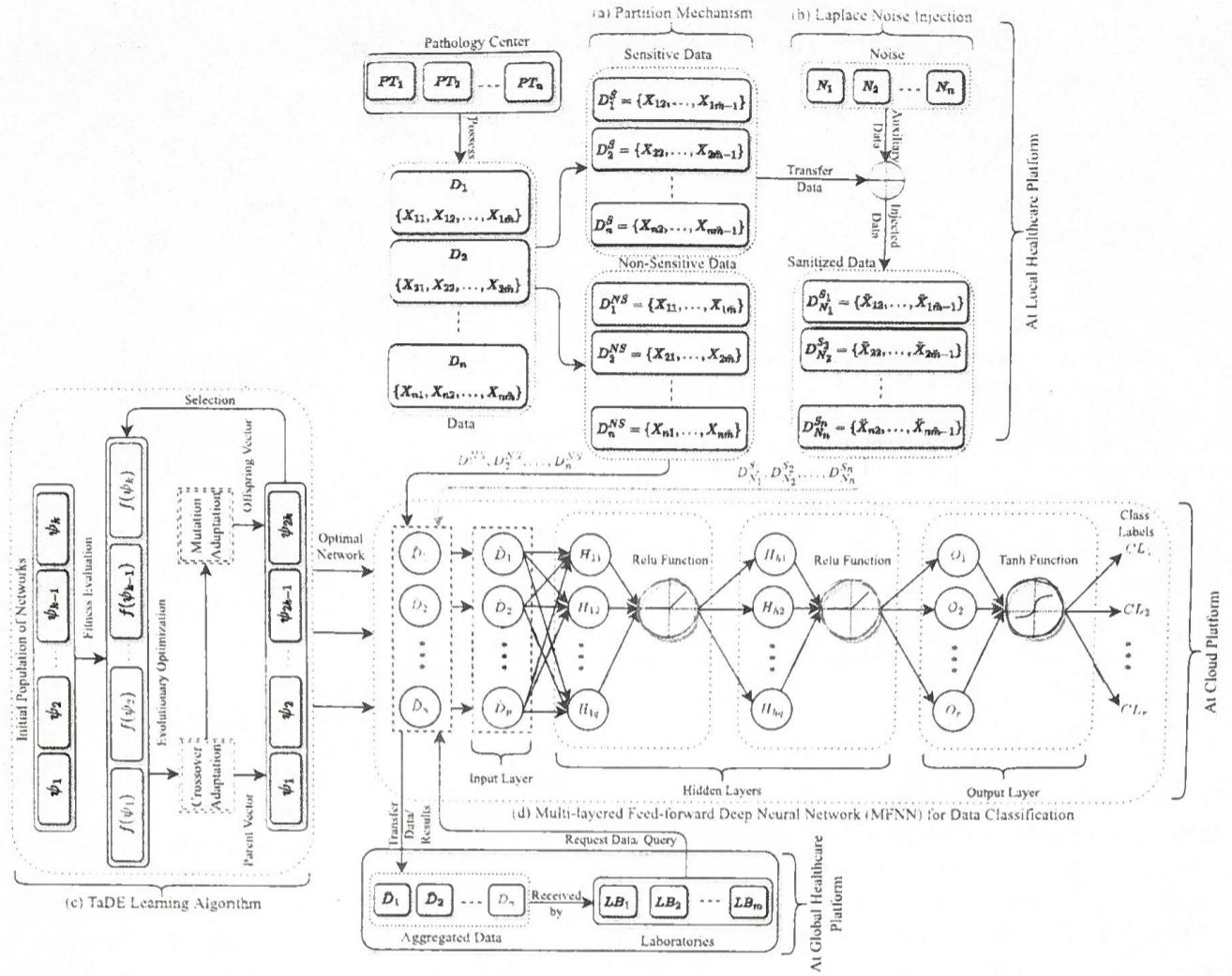


Fig. 1. DT-PPM architecture.

..., D_n^{NS}} $\in \mathbb{D}^{\text{HC}}$ parts through K-anonymization mechanism (discussed in Section II-A). Since it is the most capable technique for mitigating information loss, minimizing information leakage risk, protecting data against misuse and insider exploitation risks when data is communicated in the sharing environments [6]. PT_{id} procures synthetic data {D_{N₁}^{S₁}, D_{N₂}^{S₂}, ..., D_{N_n}^{S_n}} $\in \mathbb{D}_{\text{II}}^{\text{C}}$ by injecting noise {N₁, N₂, ..., N_n} $\in \mathbb{N}$ into sensitive data D₁^S, D₂^S, ..., D_n^S utilising ϵ -differential privacy (described in Section II-B). Since it is the most appropriate mechanism to perform privacy protection based on auxiliary information [3]. PT_{id} transfers D_{N₁}^{S₁} and D_{N₁}^{NS} to CSP that combines them into aggregated data {D₁, D₂, ..., D_n} $\in \mathbb{D}$. Whenever, LB_{id} requests for D₁, D₂, ..., D_n from CSP, it enables LB_{id} to access requested data D_i for usage. CSP performs privacy-preserving computation over D through its classification model (CM), enables PT_{id} or LB_{id} to make query, and reverts the obtained results from CM (outlined in Section II-C).

A. Data Partition

Let D_i of PT_{id} is composed of a relation with features {A₁, A₂, ..., A_{t₁}}, {A₁, A₂, ..., A_{t₂}}, ..., {A₁, A₂, ..., A_{t_n}}, respectively, which are separated into sensitive and non-sensitive relations using Theorem 1 generated by K-anonymization as shown in (a) block of Fig. 1.

Definition 1 (Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Data): sensitive data (D_i^S) is protected and kept out of reach of any outsider that does not have permission to access it. While non-sensitive data (D_i^{NS}) need not be protected and can be shared directly without any special protection. These are distinguished by PT as per the requirements where S₁, S₂, ..., S_α are D_i^S attributes and NS₁, NS₂, ..., NS_β are D_i^{NS} attributes; $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}$, $1 \leq \lambda \leq \alpha$, $1 \leq \varphi \leq \beta$, and $\lambda + \varphi \leq \Lambda_{t_1}$.

Theorem 1: Let the total number of attributes in D_i are $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \dots, \Lambda_{t_1}$, which are partitioned into S₁, S₂, ..., S_α $\in D_1^S$ and NS₁, NS₂, ..., NS_β $\in D_1^{NS}$ by applying the specified anonymity parameter K, the data integrity is maintained when D_i^S and D_i^{NS} are combined together after partitioning.

Proof: Let PT₁ partitions data D₁ into D₁^S = {S₁, S₂, ..., S_α} and D₁^{NS} = {NS₁, NS₂, ..., NS_β} by using Eqs. (1) and (2).

$$D_1^S = \prod_{(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_\alpha)} (D_1) \quad (1)$$

$$D_1^{NS} = \prod_{(NS_1, NS_2, \dots, NS_\beta)} (D_1) \quad (2)$$

In addition, PT₂ splits D₂ into D₂^S = {S₁, S₂, ..., S_α} and D₂^{NS} = {NS₁, NS₂, ..., NS_β}, ..., PT_n partitions D_n into D_n^S = {S₁, S₂, ..., S_α} and D_n^{NS} = {NS₁, NS₂, ..., NS_β}

respectively, where $a, b, c, d \in Z$, $D_1^S \cap D_1^{NS} = \emptyset$ and $D_1^S = D_1 - \{NS_1, NS_2, \dots, NS_3\}$. Thus, $D_1^S \cup D_1^{NS} = D_1$. ■

B. Data Preservation

To protect \bar{D} , each PT_1, PT_2, \dots, PT_n injects the noise (N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n) into sensitive data ($D_1^S, D_2^S, \dots, D_n^S$, respectively, using ϵ -differential privacy (block (b) of Fig. 1).

Definition 2 (ϵ -Differential Privacy): it is defined through a random function \bar{R} where every combination of dataset D and its neighbor D' , and $\forall \Gamma \subseteq \text{Range}(\bar{R})$ satisfies Eq. (3). Here, $Pb[\cdot]$ is the probability function applied to the mechanism \bar{R} and demonstrates the privacy revealing risk.

$$Pb[\bar{R}(D) = \Gamma] \leq \exp(\epsilon) \times Pb[\bar{R}(D') = \Gamma] \quad (3)$$

Definition 3 (Privacy-Budget (ϵ)): it is a predefined privacy parameter responsible for maintaining the balance between privacy loss and utility maximization. A smaller ϵ (i.e., maximum noise) makes privacy more vital but reduces data utility. To procure ϵ -differential privacy, a numeric query function (f) is employed that maps a data set D into real space with d -dimensions; it is indicated as $f : D \rightarrow R^d$. The sensitivity of f for each combination of dataset D and D' is assigned using Eq. (4):

$$\Delta f = \max_{D, D'} \|f(D) - f(D')\|_{Q_1} \quad (4)$$

where norm is represented by $\|\cdot\|_{Q_1}$. The sensitivity Δf is only dependent on the query f types and measures the maximum gap between query results on neighboring data sets. For any function $f : D \rightarrow R^d$, the Laplace mechanism F is described in Eq. (5).

$$F(D) = f(D) + (Lap_1(\Upsilon), Lap_2(\Upsilon), \dots, Lap_d(\Upsilon)) \quad (5)$$

where the noise vector N is computed from a Laplace distribution $Lap_t(\Upsilon)$ ($t \in [1, d]$) using Eq. (6) whose probability density function is centered at 0 with scale $\Upsilon \in R^+$.

$$N = \frac{1}{2\Upsilon} \cdot (\exp(-\frac{|x|}{\Upsilon})) \quad (6)$$

To produce noise N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n , the sample is taken from the Laplace distribution with a scaling parameter $\Upsilon = \Delta f / \epsilon$ under the control of ϵ . The generated noise N_i is injected into the corresponding D_i^S as $D_{N_i}^S = D_i^S + N_i$, where $i \in [1, n]$.

PT_{id} transfers the sanitized data $D_{N_i}^S$ to CSP that stores, and shares it to LB_{id} .

C. Data Classification

CSP preprocesses data $\{\bar{D}_1, \bar{D}_2, \dots, \bar{D}_n\} \in \bar{D}$ using the normalization function $\bar{D}_i = (\bar{D}_i - \bar{D}_{min}) / (\bar{D}_{max} - \bar{D}_{min})$, where \bar{D}_{max} and \bar{D}_{min} are the maximum and minimum values of the input data set. The preprocessed data \bar{D}_i is divided into training and testing data. The training data is passed to a multi-layered feed-forward neural network (MFNN) for training. As shown in block (c) of Fig. 1, TaDE algorithm is employed to optimize the neural weights ω (i.e., network vector) during the learning process. It explores and exploits a population of network vectors (ψ) and returns the most optimal

network vector for MFNN (block (d) of Fig. 1) based classification. It involves mutation followed by crossover to update the population of network vectors. The three-step adaptation is engaged at mutation, crossover, and control parameter tuning phases. The three mutation strategies, i.e., $DE/rand/2$ (Eq. (7)), $DE/best/2$ (Eq. (8)), and $DE/current-to-best/2$ (Eq. (9)) are utilized as follows:

$$\varphi_u^v = \varphi_{r1}^v + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{r2}^v - \varphi_{r3}^v) + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{r4}^v - \varphi_{r5}^v) \quad (7)$$

$$\varphi_u^v = \varphi_{best}^v + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{r1}^v - \varphi_{r2}^v) + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{r3}^v - \varphi_{r4}^v) \quad (8)$$

$$\varphi_u^v = \varphi_u^v + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{best}^v - \varphi_u^v) + \delta_u \times (\varphi_{r1}^v - \varphi_{r2}^v) \quad (9)$$

where $r1, r2, r3, r4$, and $r5$ are random vectors with the adaptive generation of mutation learning rate (δ_u). φ_u^v , φ_u^v and φ_{best}^v indicate u^{th} mutant trail vector, u^{th} population vector, and the best solution in current population respectively for v^{th} generation. A mutation-selection probability (mps) is used to select one among these mutation schemes during each iteration of the learning process. Further, three crossover schemes: Multi-point (Eq. (10)-(11)), Ring (Eq. (12)-(13)), and Heuristic (Eq. (14)), are selectively applied to update the population of network vectors.

$$\varphi_{child1}^u = \begin{cases} \varphi_{2u} & \text{If } k_1 \leq \varphi_{1u} \leq k_2 \\ \varphi_{1u} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$\varphi_{child2}^u = \begin{cases} \varphi_{1u} & \text{If } k_1 \leq \varphi_{2u} \leq k_2 \\ \varphi_{2u} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\varphi_{child1}^u = \mathcal{B} \times \varphi_{1u} + (L - \mathcal{B}) \times \varphi_{2u} \quad (12)$$

$$\varphi_{child2}^u = \mathcal{B} \times \varphi_{2u} + (L - \mathcal{B}) \times \varphi_{1u} \quad (13)$$

$$\varphi_{childu} = \delta \times (\varphi_{1u} - \varphi_{2u}) + \varphi_{1u} \quad (14)$$

where φ_{childu} , φ_1 , φ_2 , and $\mathcal{B} \in [1, L]$ are new offspring, two parent chromosomes, and cut point. To prevent premature convergence, the control parameters, including crossover and mutation rate, are regenerated randomly if at least two-fifths of the population is not updated with the current values of these control parameters. A fitness function named cross-entropy (CE) in Eq. (15) with the number of data samples (c), correct (\hat{y}), and predicted (\hat{p}) probs evaluates the network vectors during the learning process. The next population vector is selected using Eq. (16), where φ_u^{v+1} , and φ_{childu}^v are the candidates selected for next-generation and solution generated after crossover, respectively.

$$CE = -\frac{1}{c} \sum_{k=1}^c (\hat{y} \log(\hat{p}) + (1 - \hat{y}) \log(1 - \hat{p})) \quad (15)$$

$$\varphi_u^{v+1} = \begin{cases} \varphi_{childu}^v & \text{If } (\text{fitness}(\varphi_{childu}^v)) < (\text{fitness}(\varphi_u^v)) \\ \varphi_u^v & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

During the testing process, the test data is provided to MFNN to assign class label vector $CL = \{CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r\}$. Using CL , the Classification Accuracy (CA) of MFNN is measured by $(CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) / (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r)$, where CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r indicates the set of correctly identified samples, CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r is the set of sample in test data, and $r \leq r$. Precision (P), and Recall (R) are computed using $(CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) \cap (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) / (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r)$, and $(CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) \cap (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) / (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r)$.

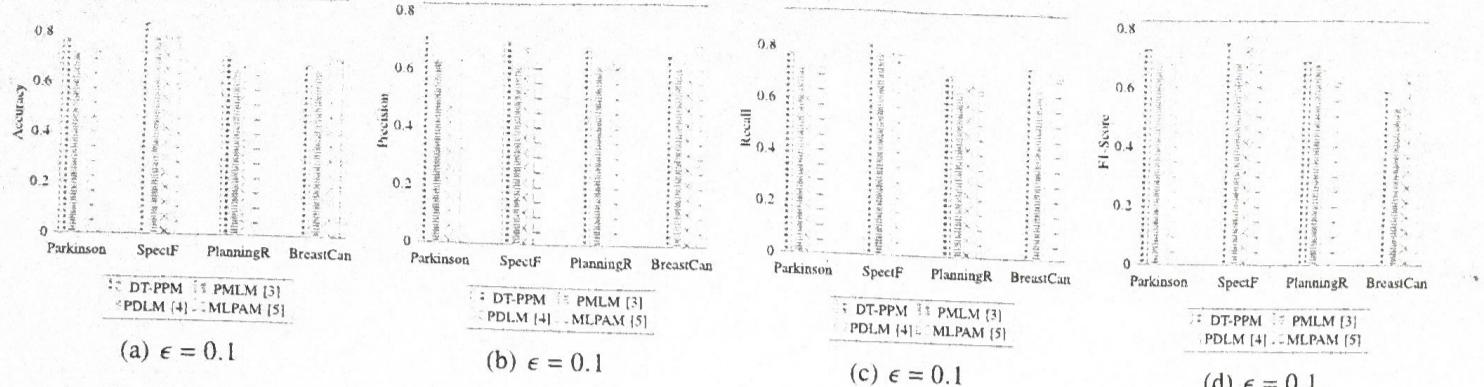


Fig. 2. Performance of DT-PPM with privacy budget $\epsilon = 0.1$.

$(CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r) / (CL_1, CL_2, \dots, CL_r)$, respectively. F1-Score (FS) is measured using $2 \times (P \times R) / (P + R)$.

III. OPERATIONAL DESIGN AND COMPLEXITY

Step 1 initializes probabilities Pm_1 , Pm_2 , Pm_3 , and Pr_1 , Pr_2 , and Pr_3 for mutation and crossover selection, has $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time complexity. Steps (2-26) perform data partitioning, noise generation, injection, and classifying task, wherein step (3) takes $\mathcal{O}(\eta^2)$, where η is the total number of input records. In steps (4-26), crossover selection probabilities are generated as a vector cps and consume $\mathcal{O}(v \times p^2 \times \psi)$ time, where v , ψ , and p are number of generations, solution vectors, and input neurons, respectively. Step 27 calculates CA , P , R , and FS with $\mathcal{O}(1)$ complexity. Hence, the total time complexity of DT-PPM is $\mathcal{O}(v \times p^2 \times \eta^2 \times \psi)$.

IV. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A. Experimental Setup

The simulation experiments are carried out on a server machine consisting of two Intel Xeon Silver 4114 CPU with a 40 core processor and 2.20 GHz clock speed, configured with a 64-bit Ubuntu having 128 GB of main memory in Python 3.7. Parkinson (PK), SpectF (SF), Planning Relax (PR), and Wisconsin Breast Cancer (WBC) distinct datasets are taken from UCI Machine Learning Repository [7]. The experimental results of DT-PPM are compared with state-of-art PMLM [3], PDLM [4], and MLPAM [5] models that are implemented on the same platform.

B. Privacy Budget and Efficiency

The privacy parameters are evaluated for various ϵ values (0.1, 0.2, ..., 1.0), and the results of DT-PPM, including CA , P , R , and FS are compared with PMLM [3], PDLM [4], and MLPAM [5] for $\epsilon = 0.1$ and 1.0, as illustrated in Figs. 2(a)-(d) to 3(a)-(d) relatively. It is examined that the range for CA , P , R , and FS are 72.97% to 87.03%, 69.66% to 84.87%, 72.97% to 87.03%, 71.15% to 85.00% for four datasets respectively. The average for CA , P , R , and FS are 81.98%, 76.50%, 81.98%, and 78.59% across all datasets. DT-PPM outperforms [3], [4], and [5] in all the cases because it mitigates the effect of injecting noise by splitting data into sensitive and non-sensitive parts

Algorithm 1: DT-PPM Operational Summary

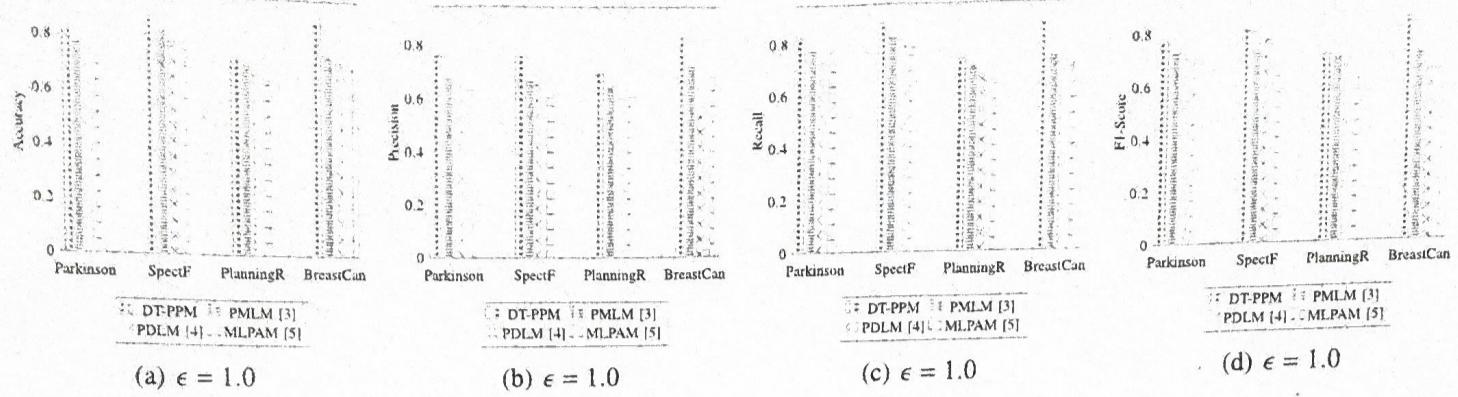
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1 Initialize  $Pm_1, Pm_2 = 0.33, Pm_3 = 0.34, Pr_1, Pr_2 = 0.33, Pr_3 = 0.34$ 
2 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
3    $D_i^S = D_i - D_i^N, N_i = \text{Lap}(0,\sigma), D_{N_i}^S = D_i^S + N_i$ 
4   Initialize synaptic weight neural network with  $\omega$ 
5   Evaluate each network using fitness function
6   for each solution v do
7     Generate  $mps$  and  $cps$  of  $v$ 
8     for each solution u do
9       Generate  $r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4$ , and  $r_5 \in [1..L]$ 
10      if  $0 < mps_u < Pm_1$  then
11        | Apply DE/rand/2 mutation
12      end
13      else if  $Pm_1 < mps_u < Pm_1 + Pm_2$  then
14        | Apply DE/best/2 mutation
15      end
16      else
17        | Apply DE/current - to - best/2
18      end
19      if  $0 < cps_u < Pr_1$  then
20        | Apply Multi-point crossover
21      end
22      else if  $Pr_1 < cps_u < Pr_1 + Pr_2$  then
23        | Apply Heuristic crossover
24      end
25      else
26        | Apply Ring crossover
27      end
28   Compute fitness value for each candidates
29   Select  $\omega$  having best fitness value
30   Update  $ms_1, ms_2, ms_3, mf_1, mf_2$ , and  $mf_3$ 
31   Update  $Pm_1, Pm_2, Pm_3, Pr_1, Pr_2$ , and  $Pr_3$ 
32 end
33 end
34 Apply best population on test data
35 end
36 Calculate  $CA, P, R$ , and  $FS$ 

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as well as TaDE improves the classification model's learning efficiency.

Table II shows that the maximum improvement of DT-PPM for CA is 15.89% on WBC dataset and the minimum enhancement is found 2.70% on PR dataset. Likewise, for parameter P , the maximal improvement is 27.73% on WBC dataset and the minimal upgradation is found 4.80% on PR dataset. For metric R , maximum improvement is 15.89% compared to [3], [4], and [5] on WBC dataset, whereas the minimum improvement is 2.70% on PR dataset. The highest improvement of 21.44% is attained for metric FS on WBC dataset, while the lowest advancement is 1.63% on PR dataset. DT-PPM outperforms

Fig. 3. Performance of DT-PPM with privacy budget $\epsilon = 1.0$.TABLE II
IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVACY PARAMETERS OF DT-PPM OVER PMLM [3], PDLM [4], AND MLPAM [5]

Dataset	Accuracy			Precision			Recall			F1-Score		
	[3]	[4]	[5]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Parkinson	5.13	9.61	10.26	8.41	10.55	12.55	5.13	9.61	10.26	5.03	6.68	7.16
SpectF	5.55	8.79	9.26	9.36	8.41	15.26	5.55	8.79	9.26	10.50	3.39	15.61
Planning Relax	2.70	6.04	8.11	4.80	9.33	8.70	2.70	6.04	8.11	6.54	1.63	14.82
Breast Cancer	12.32	13.98	15.89	12.70	27.73	16.57	12.32	13.98	15.89	14.13	20.31	21.44

state-of-art models [3], [4], and [5] due to its prominent noise addition in data subset and better learning adaptability of the neural network. Moreover, DT-PPM results are lesser or equal than the results of Clean data in all the cases because of noise injection. Table III shows that the reduction ranges for CA, P, R, and FS are 0.57% to 10.81%, 0.27% to 3.26%, 0.57% to 10.81%, and 0.34% to 5.24% over four datasets respectively. But still, the results are closer and provide more protection than Clean data.

C. Security

In DT-PPM, PT_{id} transfers data to CSP , however, an untrusted entities such as CSP and LB_{id} may obtain sensitive information from the collected data. It is required to protect sensitive data with ϵ -differential privacy.

Theorem 2: In the proposed model, PT_1, PT_2, \dots, PT_n centers are secured with ϵ differential privacy.

Proof: Let R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n be n mechanisms, where each mechanism R_i ($i \in [1, n]$) provides ϵ differential privacy. Let D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n be n arbitrary disjoint data sets of the input domain D . For a new mechanism R , the sequence of $R(R_1(D_1), R_2(D_2), \dots, R_n(D_n))$ provides $\sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon$ -differential privacy. PT_{id} produces the Laplace noise N_i according to sensitivity Δf , ϵ and injects the generated noise into D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n , respectively, to satisfy $Pb[R(D) = \Gamma] \leq \exp(\epsilon) \times Pb[R(D') = \Gamma]$. According to sequence composition, it is ensured that the mechanism R provides privacy to the data; therefore, an unauthorized users or any attacker are not able to access sensitive data from CSP or other parties in DT-PPM. ■

V. CONCLUSION

A novel privacy-preserving model is proposed that protects outsourced data generated by pathology centers and provides

TABLE III
REDUCTION OF VALUES OF DT-PPM OVER CLEAN DATA

Dataset	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Parkinson	5.12	0.27	5.12	0.34
SpectF	1.85	3.26	1.85	2.66
Planning Relax	10.81	0.53	10.81	5.24
Breast Cancer	0.57	1.55	0.57	1.02

secure data sharing in the cloud environment by partitioning, injecting noise, and classifying the data efficiently. The introduced data partition and noise injection mechanisms protect the data and reduce the overall computation time of the entire process. To improve neural networks' learning efficiency, the TaDE algorithm is developed. The performance evaluation and security analysis validated that DT-PPM is protective, effective, and optimal over existing comparative approaches.

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