

Summary of My Research

- **Name:** Jianqing Zhang
- **Age:** 27
- **Ph.D.:** Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- **Collaborations:**
 - Qiang Yang, HKUST, China
 - Yang Liu, Tsinghua University, China
 - Marco Canini, KAUST, Saudi Arabia
 - Yang Hua, Queen's University Belfast, UK

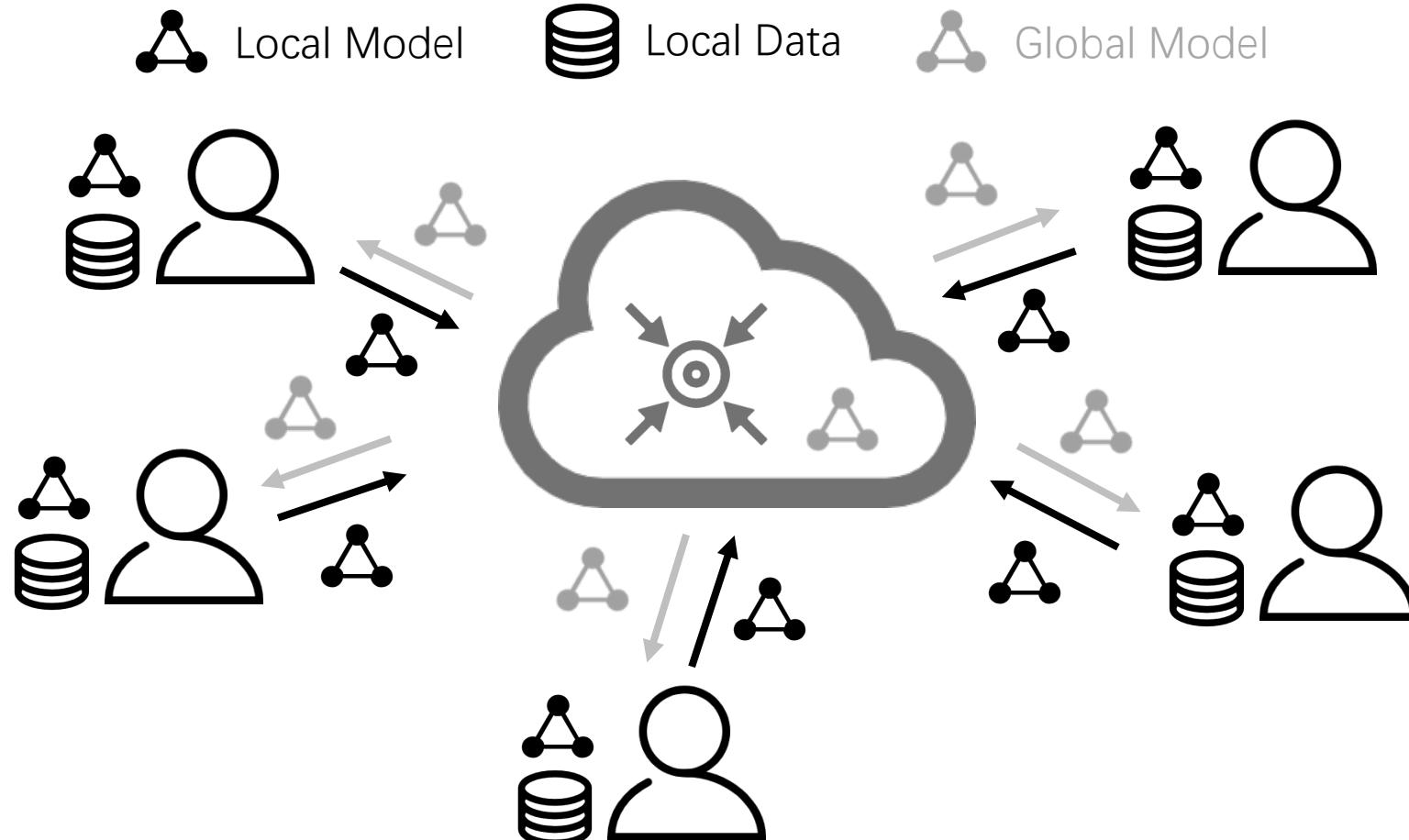


Overview

- **Research interests**
 - Synthetic Dataset Generation
 - Large and Small Models Collaboration
 - Personalized/Heterogeneous Federated Learning
- **Open-sourced projects (initiator, main contributor)**
 - CoAutoGen, PFLlib (1600+ stars, 300+ forks), HtFLLib, FL-IoT, etc.
- **Featured publications (6 accepted papers, first author)**
 - Stage ① [Personalized Federated Learning]:
 - PFLlib, AAAI'23, KDD'23, ICCV'23, NeurIPS'23
 - Stage ② [Large and Heterogeneous Small Models Collaboration]:
 - HtFLLib, AAAI'24, CVPR'24
 - Stage ③ [Synthetic Dataset Generation]:
 - CoAutoGen, EMNLP'24

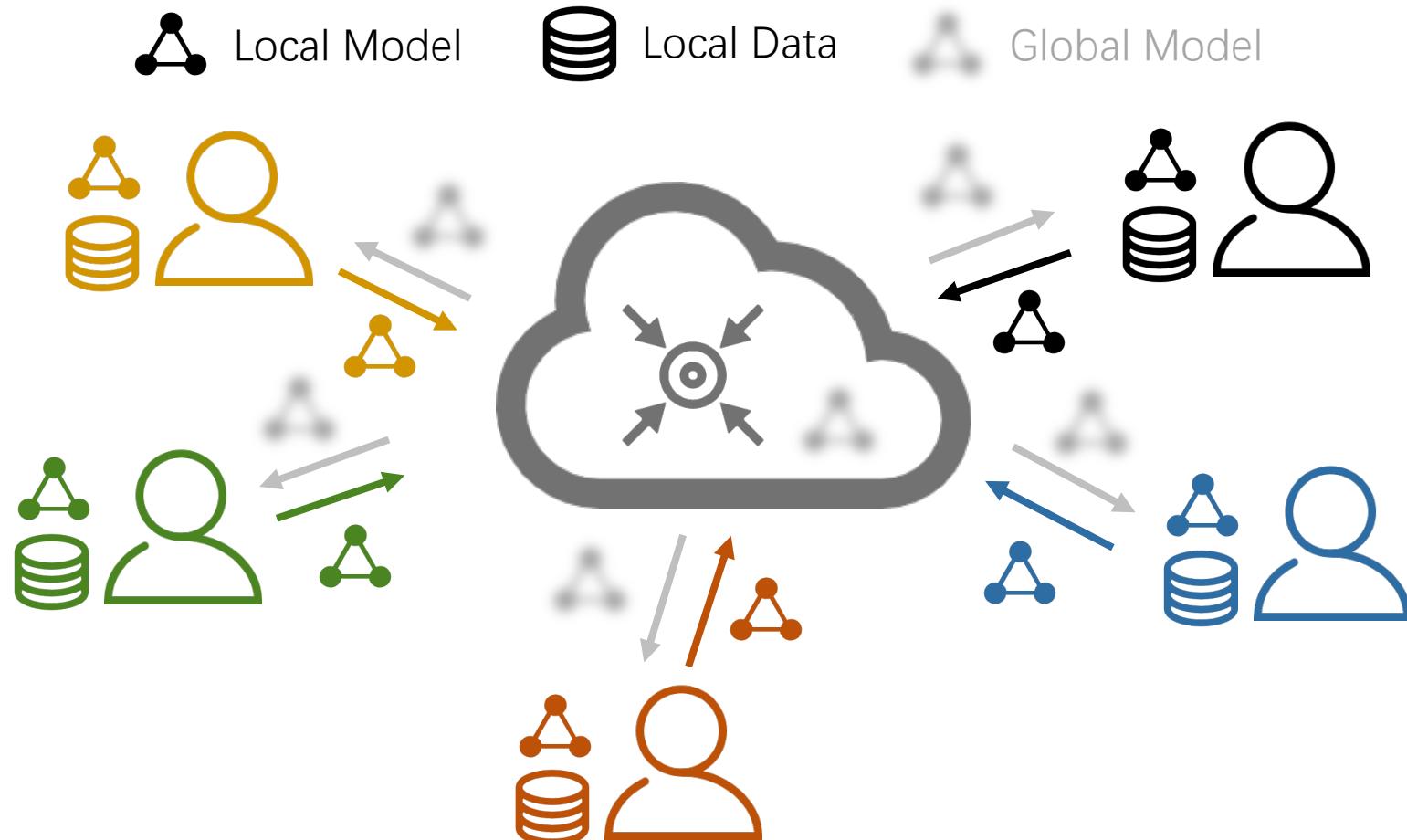
Federated Learning (FL)

- A **collaborative** and **privacy-preserving** technique for AI model training
- Finally output **one global model** 



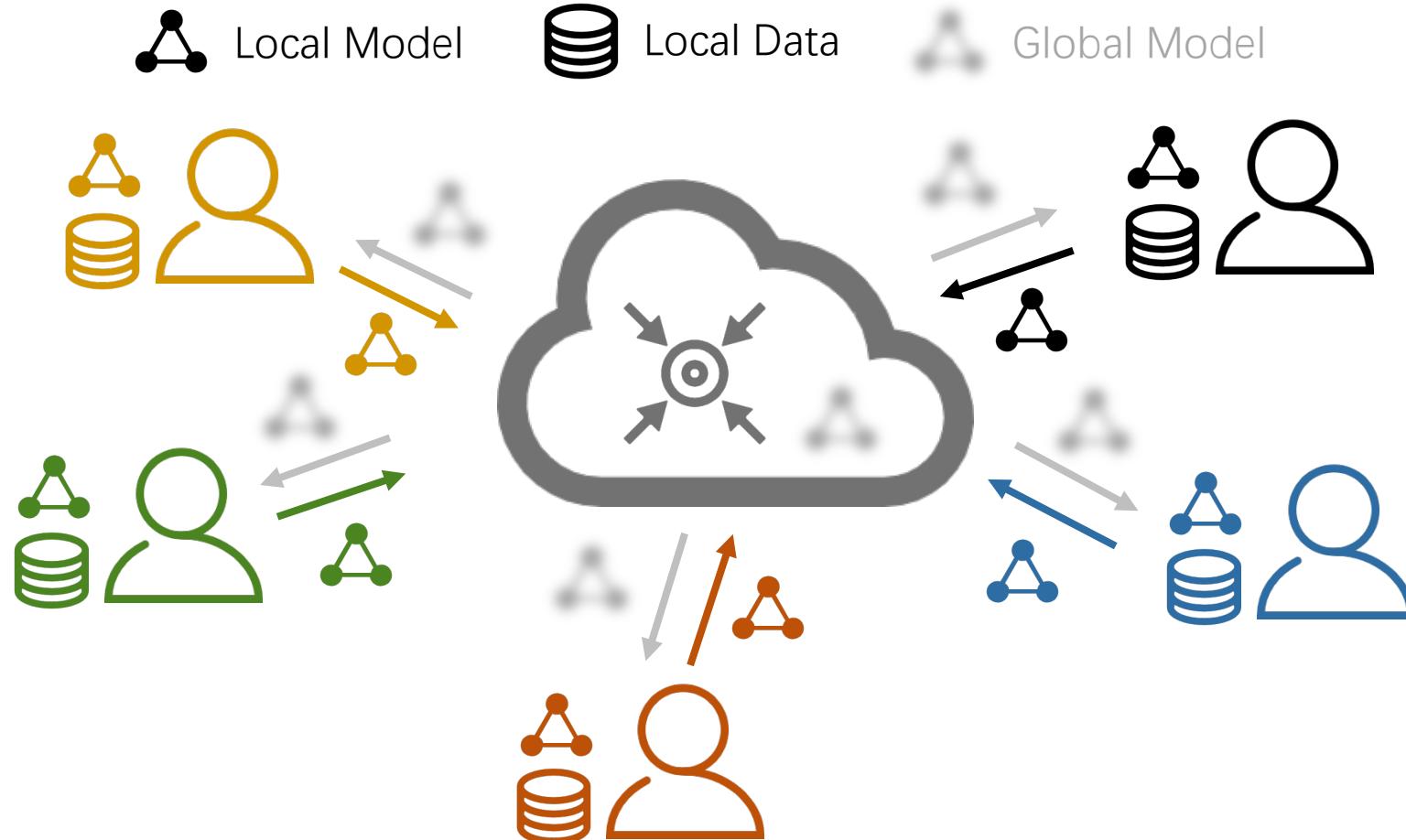
① Data Heterogeneity in FL

- Data is **generated in different ways on clients** and forbidden to be shared
- Each client also has **personalized preferences**



① Personalized Federated Learning (pFL)

- Utilize the **intermediate** global model to **facilitate local training**
- Finally output **personalized models** 



① PFLlib: pFL algorithm library and benchmark

- Beginner-friendly
- 38 FL&pFL, 3 scenarios, 24 datasets
- Popular (1600+ stars)
- 500 clients: 5GB GPU memory
- Rapidly developing:

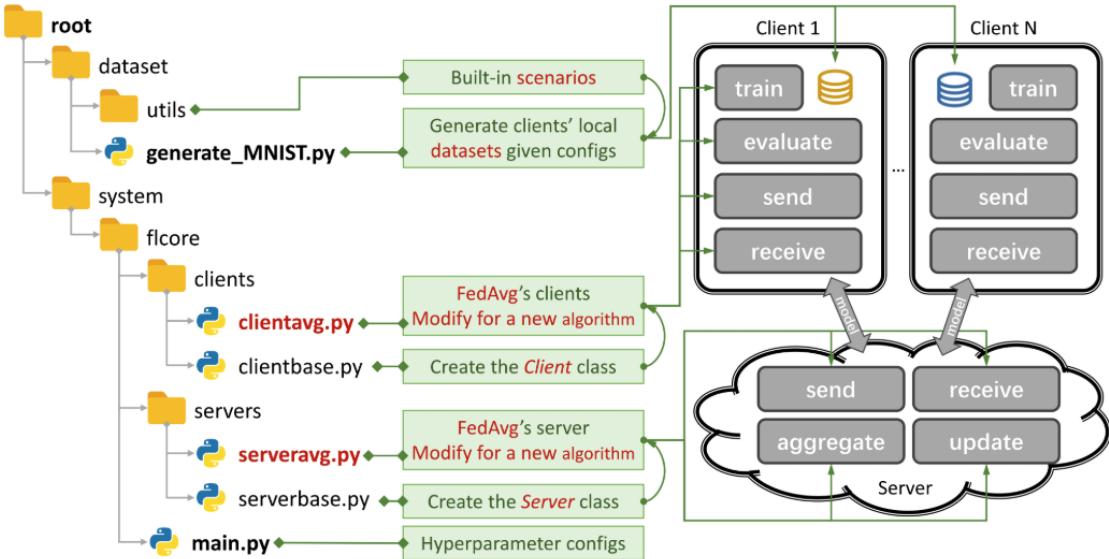
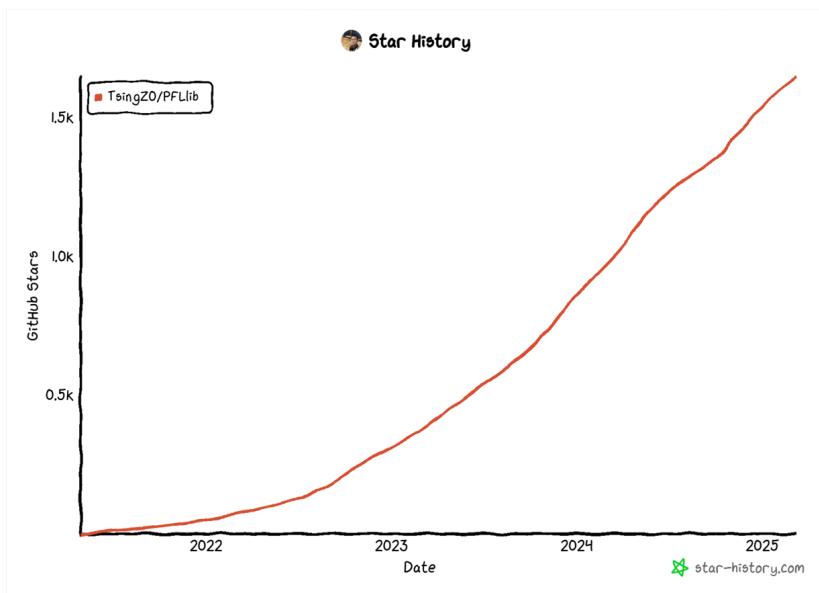


Figure 1: An Example for FedAvg. You can create a scenario using `generate_DATA.py` and run an algorithm using `main.py`, `clientNAME.py`, and `serverNAME.py`. For a new algorithm, you only need to add new features in `clientNAME.py` and `serverNAME.py`.

The screenshot shows the PFLlib website's 'Benchmark Platform' section. It highlights the 'FedDBE' method as the top performer across various benchmarks. The page includes a 'Quick Start' guide, 'FL Algorithms', 'Datasets & Scenarios', 'Models', 'Easy to Extend', and 'Other Features'. A table compares test accuracy (%) across different datasets (MNIST, CIFAR10, TINY, CIFAR100, TINY10) and scenarios (AG News). The table shows that FedDBE consistently achieves the highest accuracy, particularly in challenging label skew settings.

① Publications

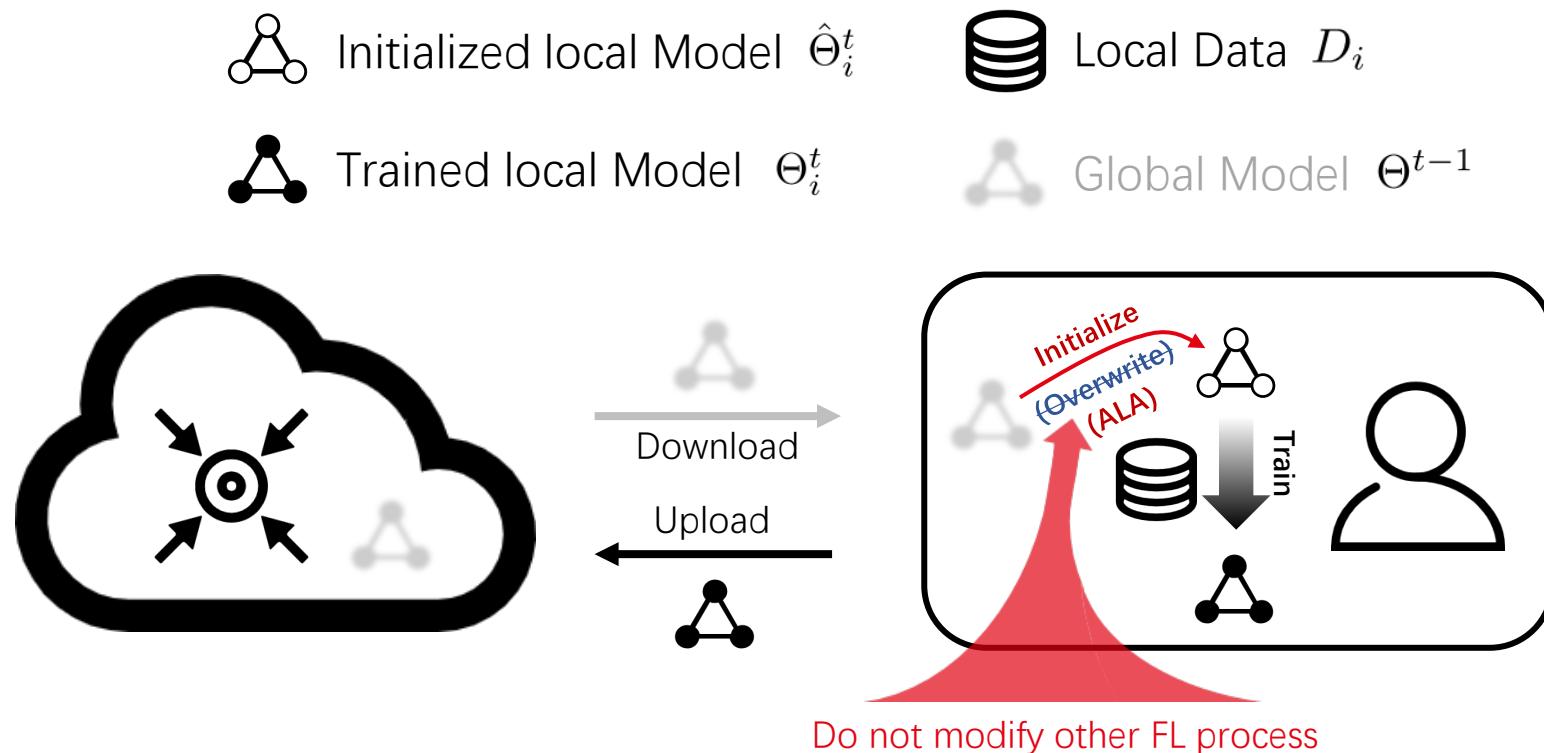
- [AAAI'23] FedALA: Adaptive Local Aggregation for Personalized Federated Learning.
- [KDD'23] FedCP: Separating Feature Information for Personalized Federated Learning via Conditional Policy.
- [ICCV'23] GPFL: Simultaneously Learning Generic and Personalized Feature Information for Personalized Federated Learning.
- [NeurIPS'23] Eliminating Domain Bias for Federated Learning in Representation Space.
- **How can we distinguish both generalization and personalization?**

① Publications

- [AAAI'23] FedALA: Adaptive Local Aggregation for Personalized Federated Learning. (It has potential for pre-trained model merging[1])
- [KDD'23] FedCP: Separating Feature Information for Personalized Federated Learning via Conditional Policy.
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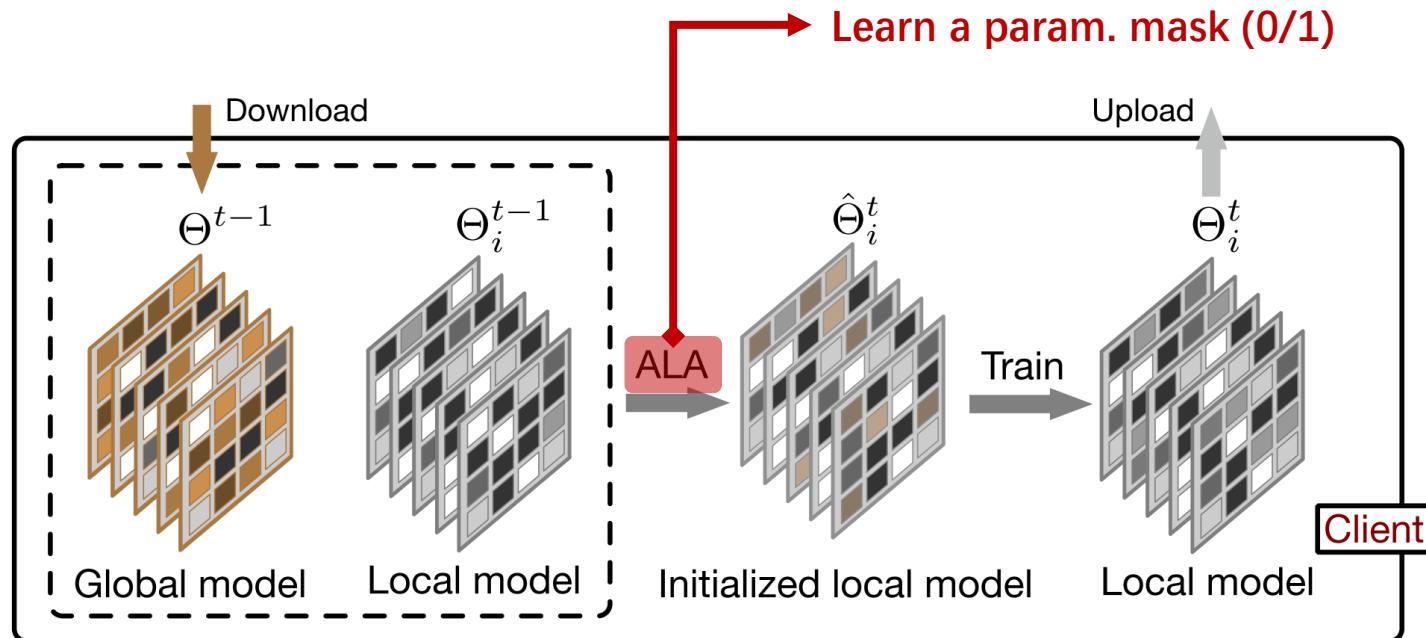
Existing FL

- Original workflow in FL
 - Both the **desired** and **undesired** information exist in the global model, resulting in **poor generalization ability**



FedALA

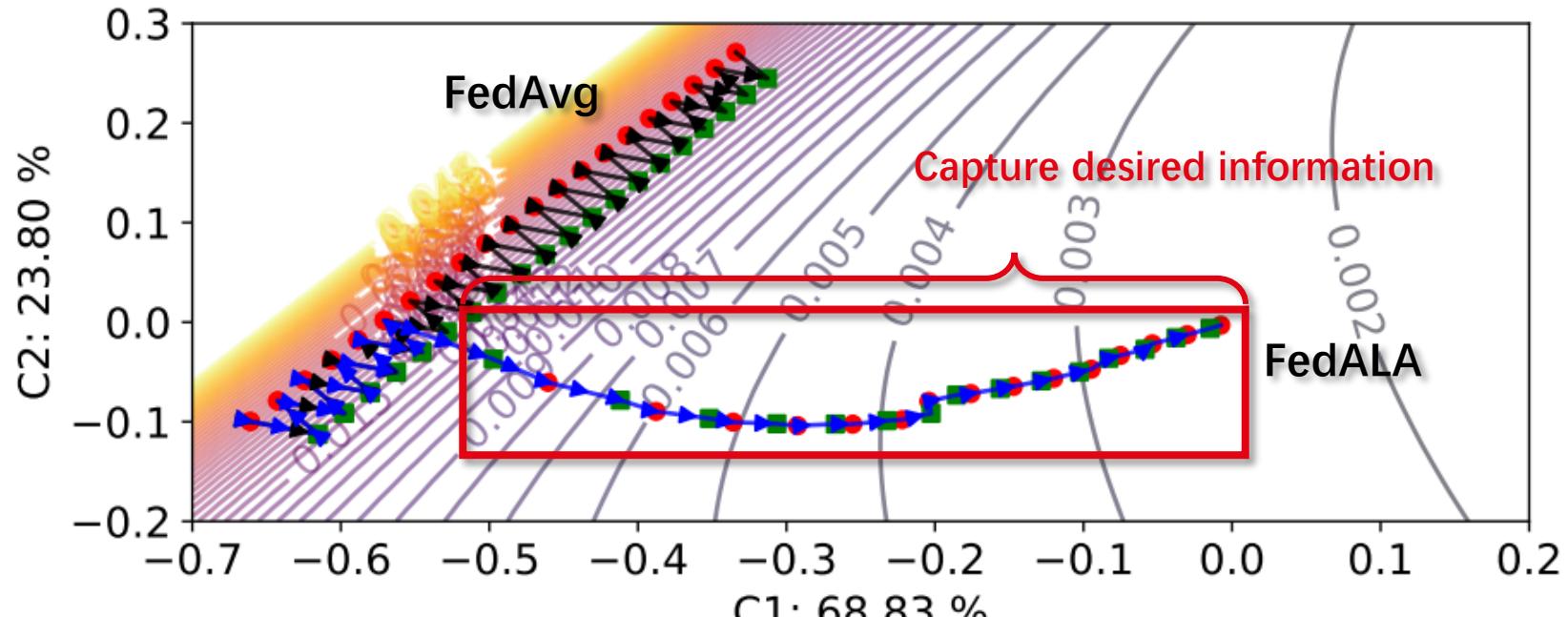
- Extract each client's desired information from the global model that facilitates local training
- Adaptively aggregate the information in the global and local model for initialization



Workflow on the client in one iteration

FedALA

- Learning trajectory on one client: **FedAvg** vs. **FedALA**
- Activate ALA in the subsequent iterations



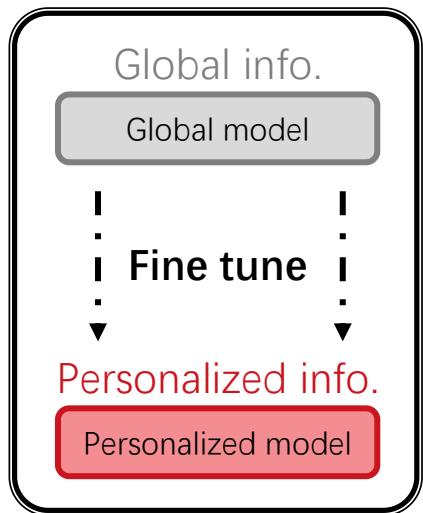
2D visualization of local learning trajectory

① Publications

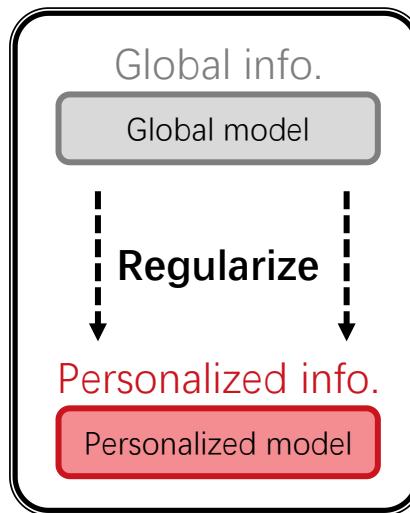
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Existing pFL

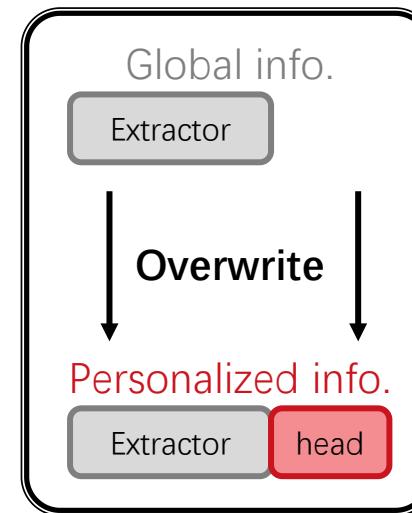
- **Consensus:** reasonably utilizing global and personalized information is the key for pFL.
 - meta-learning-based (Per-FedAvg), regularization-based (Ditto), and personalized-head-based (FedRep) pFL.



Per-FedAvg[1]



Ditto[2]



FedRep[3]

- They only focus on model parameters, but **ignore the source of information: data.**

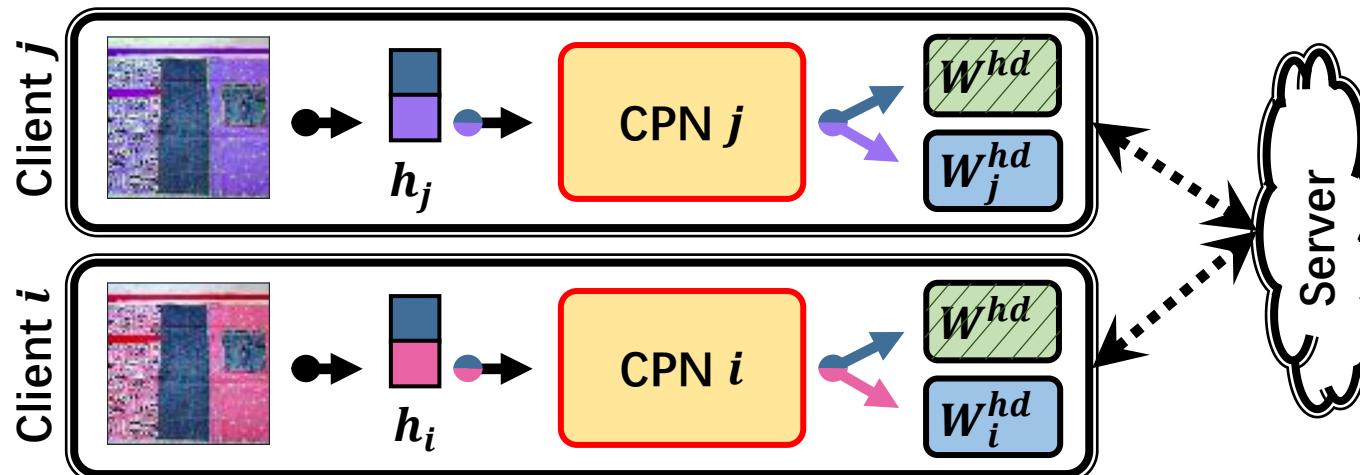
[1] Fallah A, Mokhtari A, Ozdaglar A. Personalized federated learning with theoretical guarantees: A model-agnostic meta-learning approach. NeurIPS, 2020.

[2] Li T, Hu S, Beirami A, et al. Ditto: Fair and robust federated learning through personalization. ICML, 2021.

[3] Collins L, Hassani H, Mokhtari A, et al. utilizing shared representations for personalized federated learning. ICML, 2021.

FedCP

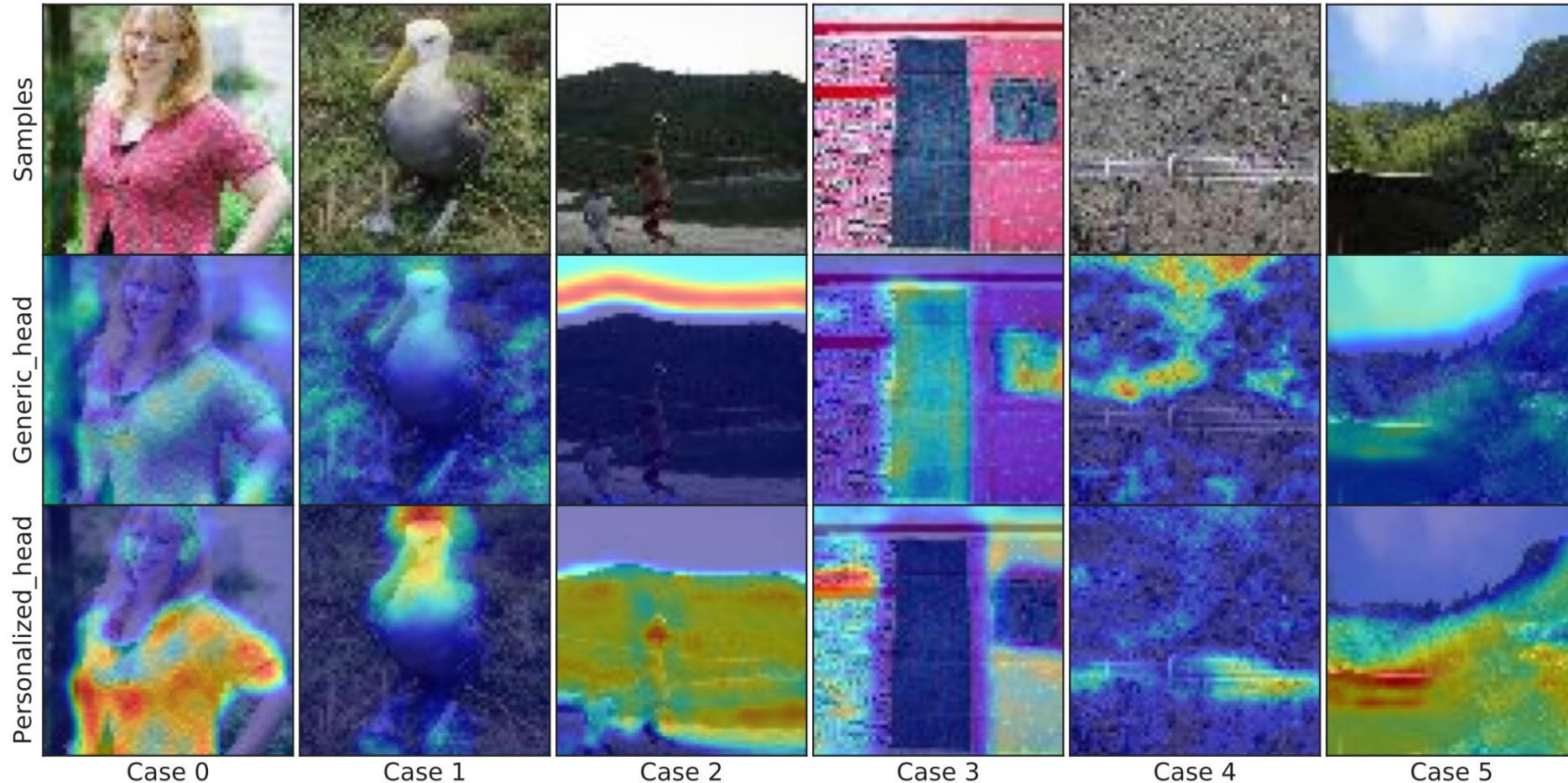
- We separate feature information via an auxiliary **Conditional Policy Network (CPN)**.
 - Sample-specific separation
 - Lightweight (e.g., 4.67% parameters of ResNet-18)



- Then, we utilize global and personalized information via global and personalized heads.

FedCP

- Separating Feature Information



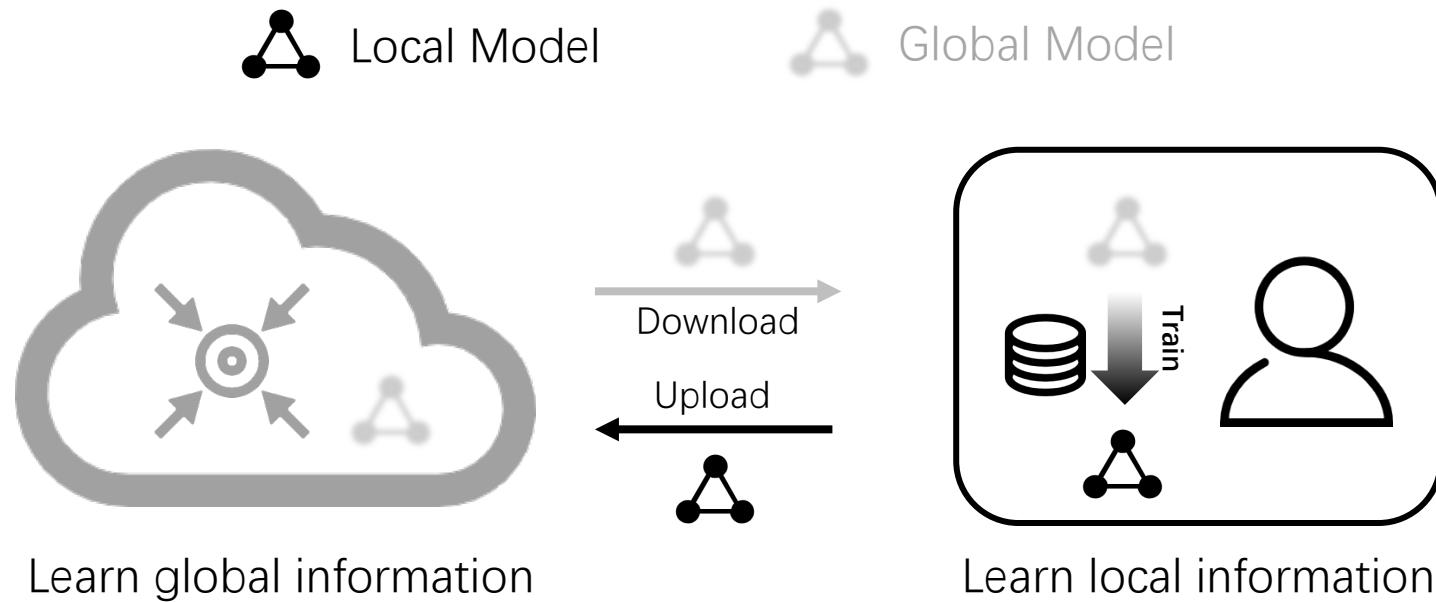
Six samples from the Tiny-ImageNet dataset

① Publications

- [AAAI'23] FedALA: Adaptive Local Aggregation for Personalized Federated Learning.
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Existing pFL

- Most pFL learns global and personalized information **alternatively**
- **Catastrophic forgetting:** global knowledge is lost during local training



GPFL

- GCE introduces more global information **simultaneously** with local training
- CoV **eliminates the interaction** between global and personalized feature learning

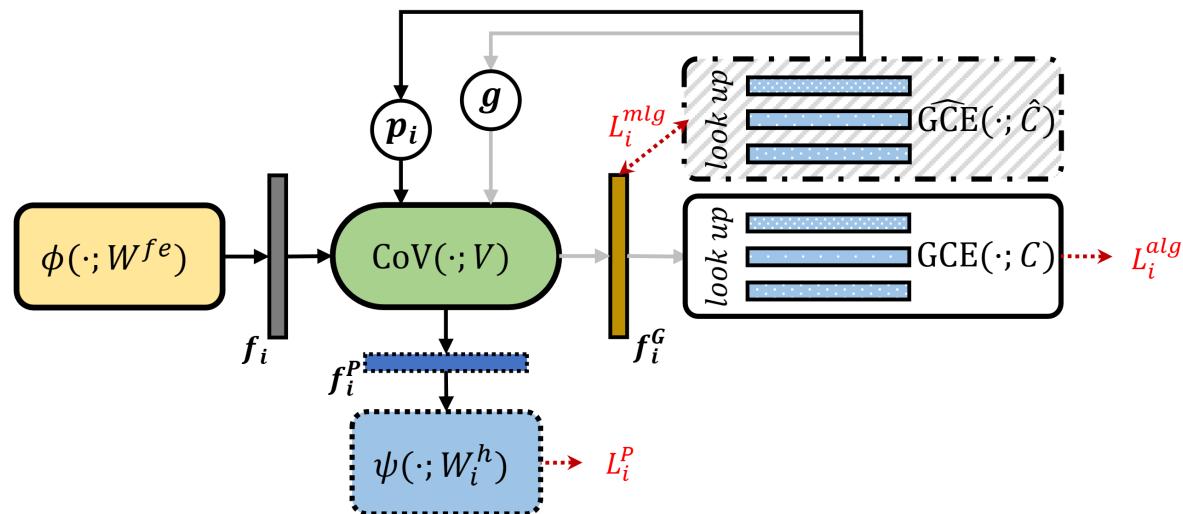
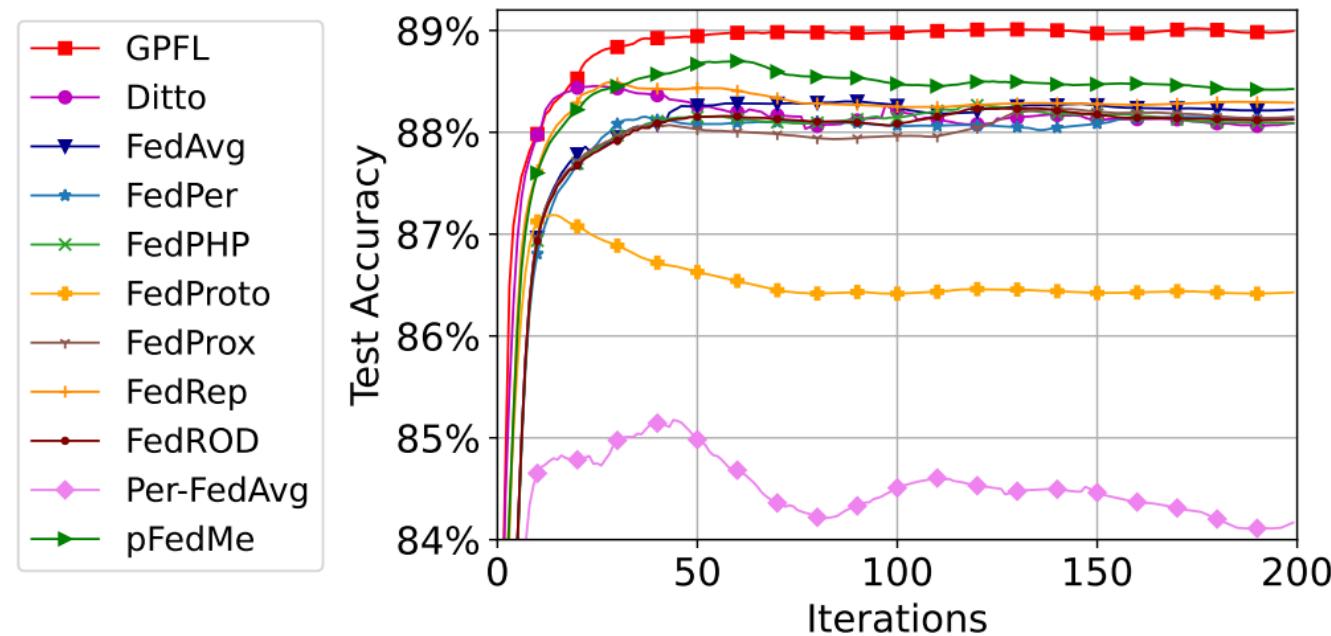


Illustration of client modules and data flow between them

GPFL

- Relieve the **widely existed** overfitting issue in pFL



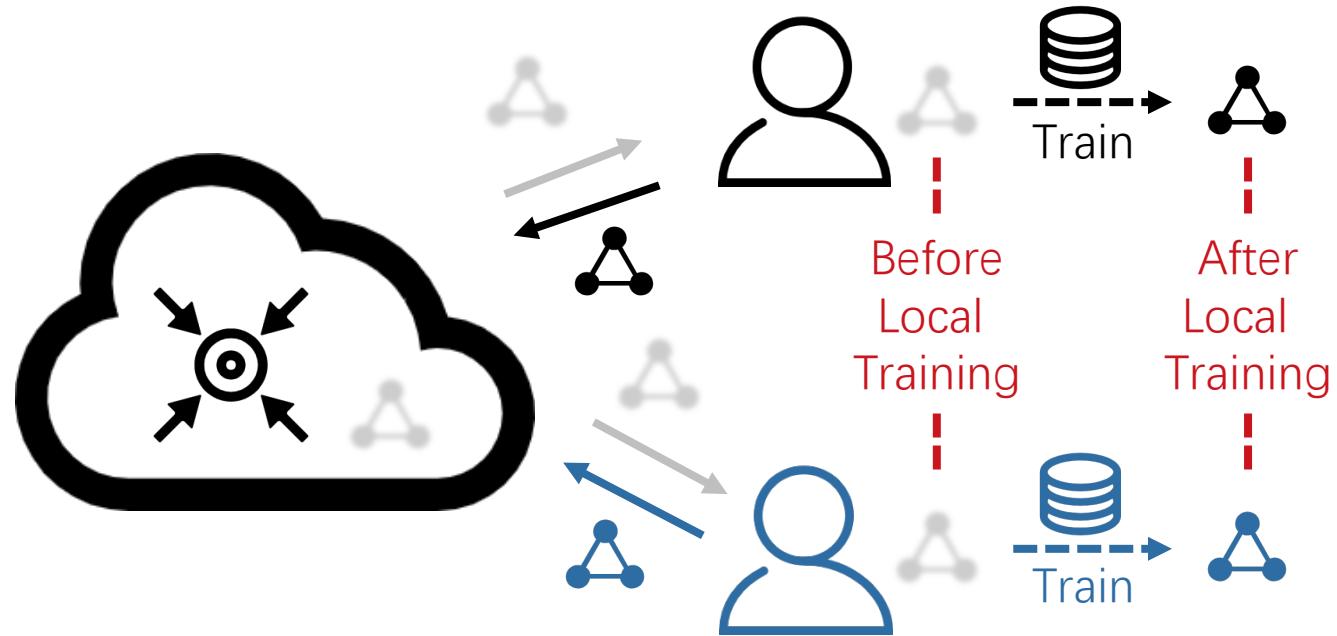
Test accuracy curves in the feature shift setting

① Publications

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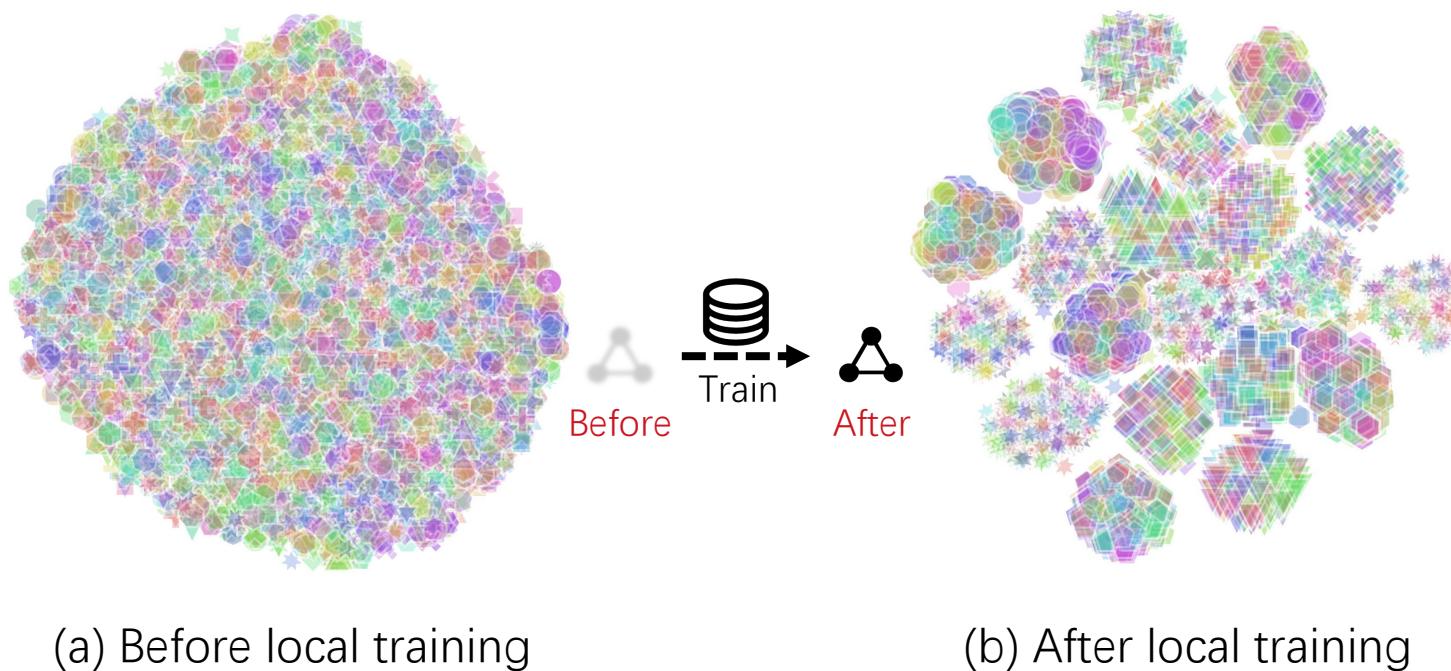
Existing FL

- Clients' local training turns the received global model to client-specific local models



Existing FL

- After local training, the feature representations are **biased** to client-specific domains

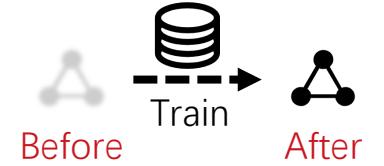


(a) Before local training

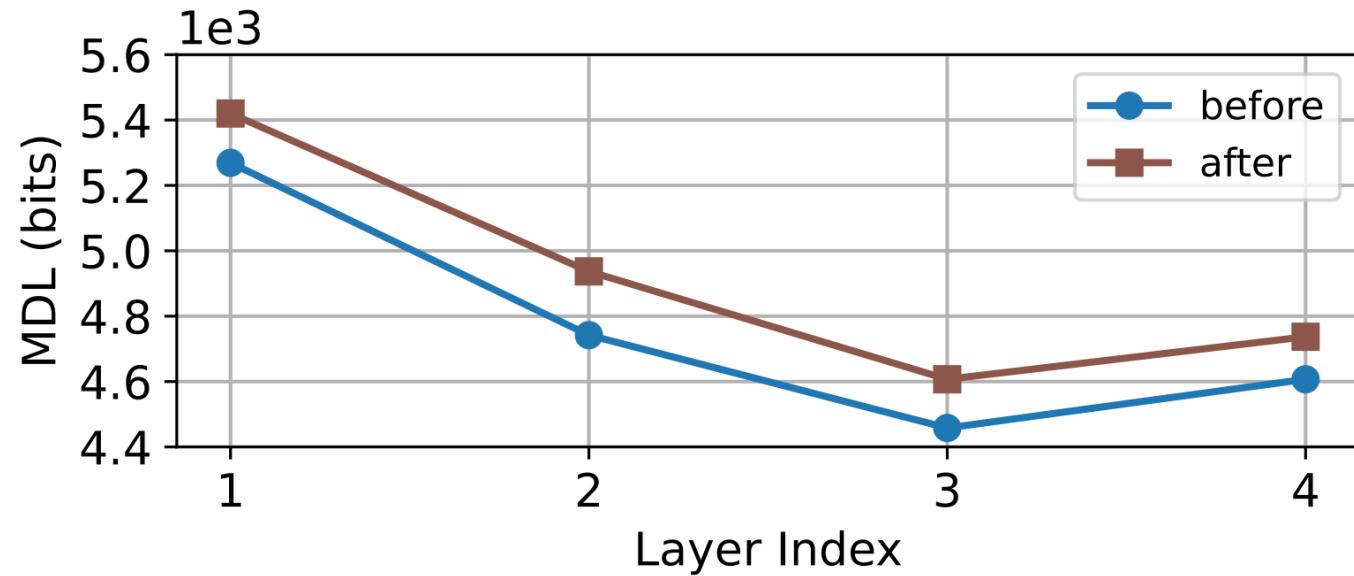
(b) After local training

We use *color* and *shape* to distinguish *labels* and *clients*, respectively.

Existing FL



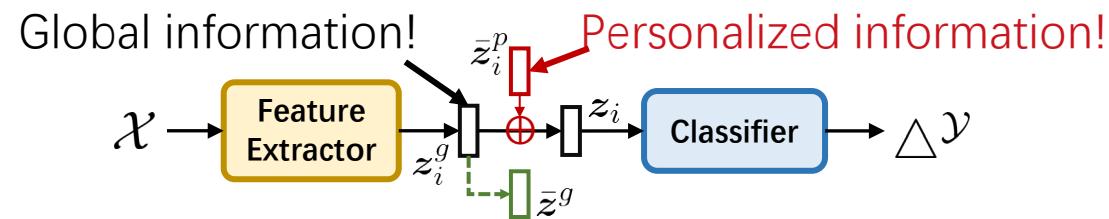
- At the same time, representations' quality is also **degenerated**



Per-layer MDL (bits) for representations before/after local training in FedAvg.
A large MDL value means low representation quality.

DBE

- Eliminate domain bias by store **personalized information** in **PRBM**
- Enhance **information disentanglement** by guiding feature extractor with **MR**



Local model (with PRBM and MR)

DBE

- Improve bi-directional knowledge transfer
- Local-to-global knowledge transfer

Corollary 1. Consider a local data domain \mathcal{D}_i and a virtual global data domain \mathcal{D} for client i and the server, respectively. Let $\mathcal{D}_i = \langle \mathcal{U}_i, c^* \rangle$ and $\mathcal{D} = \langle \mathcal{U}, c^* \rangle$, where $c^* : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Y}$ is a ground-truth labeling function. Let \mathcal{H} be a hypothesis space of VC dimension d and $h : \mathcal{Z} \mapsto \mathcal{Y}, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$. When using DBE, given a feature extraction function $\mathcal{F}^g : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Z}$ that shared between \mathcal{D}_i and \mathcal{D} , a random labeled sample of size m generated by applying \mathcal{F}^g to a random sample from \mathcal{U}_i labeled according to c^* , then for every $h^g \in \mathcal{H}$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h^g) \leq \mathcal{L}_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}_i}(h^g) + \sqrt{\frac{4}{m} \left(d \log \frac{2em}{d} + \log \frac{4}{\delta} \right)} + d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i^g, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}^g) + \lambda_i,$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}_i}$ is the empirical loss on \mathcal{D}_i , e is the base of the natural logarithm, and $d_{\mathcal{H}}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the \mathcal{H} -divergence between two distributions. $\lambda_i := \min_{h^g} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h^g) + \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_i}(h^g)$, $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i^g \subseteq \mathcal{Z}$, $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}^g \subseteq \mathcal{Z}$, and $d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i^g, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}^g) \leq d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i, \tilde{\mathcal{U}})$. $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i^g$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}^g$ are the induced distributions of \mathcal{U}_i and \mathcal{U} under \mathcal{F}^g , respectively. $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}$ are the induced distributions of \mathcal{U}_i and \mathcal{U} under \mathcal{F} , respectively. \mathcal{F} is the feature extraction function in the original FedAvg without DBE.

DBE

- Improve bi-directional knowledge transfer
- Global-to-local knowledge transfer

Corollary 2. Let \mathcal{D}_i , \mathcal{D} , \mathcal{F}^g , and λ_i defined as in Corollary I. Given a translation transformation function PRBM : $\mathcal{Z} \mapsto \mathcal{Z}$ that shared between \mathcal{D}_i and virtual \mathcal{D} , a random labeled sample of size m generated by applying \mathcal{F}' to a random sample from \mathcal{U}_i labeled according to c^* , $\mathcal{F}' = \text{PRBM} \circ \mathcal{F}^g : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Z}$, then for every $h' \in \mathcal{H}$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$:

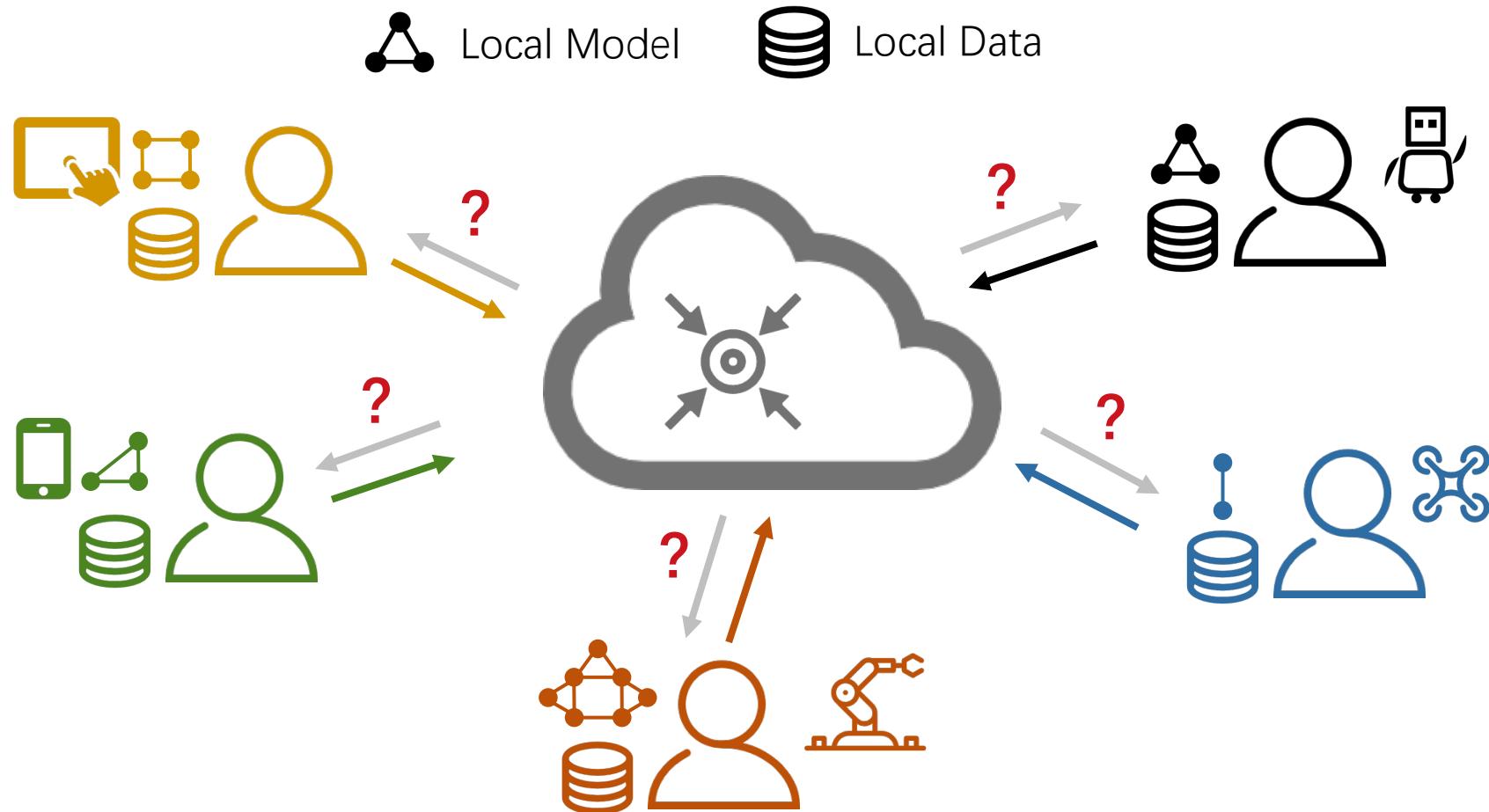
$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_i}(h') \leq \mathcal{L}_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}}(h') + \sqrt{\frac{4}{m} \left(d \log \frac{2em}{d} + \log \frac{4}{\delta} \right)} + d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}', \tilde{\mathcal{U}}'_i) + \lambda_i,$$

where $d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}', \tilde{\mathcal{U}}'_i) = d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}^g, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i^g) \leq d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}, \tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i) = d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{\mathcal{U}}_i, \tilde{\mathcal{U}})$. $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}'$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}'_i$ are the induced distributions of \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{U}_i under \mathcal{F}' , respectively.

Please refer to our paper for proofs.

② Data and Model Heterogeneity in FL

- Device heterogeneity and intellectual property
- Low bandwidth: **What** should be transmitted?



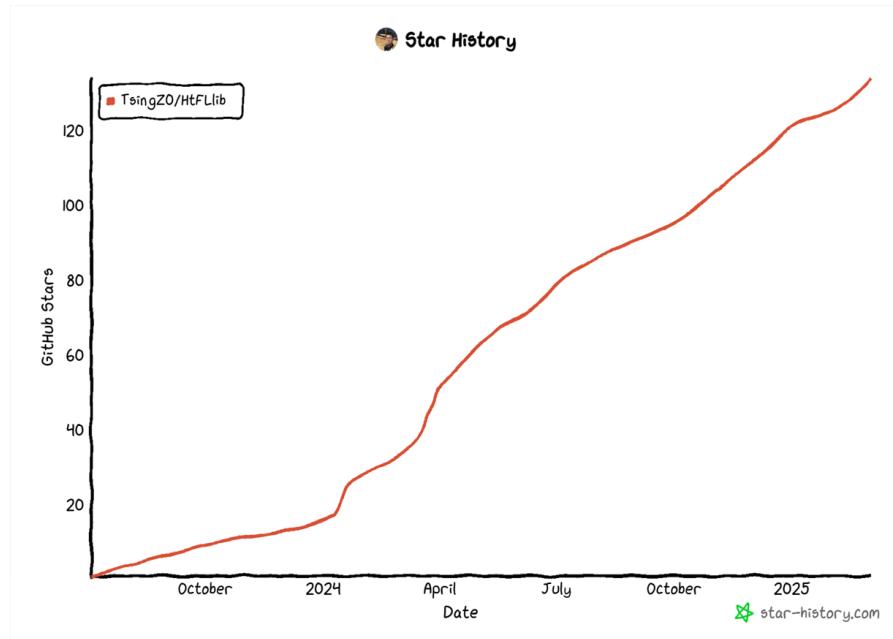
② [Large and Heterogeneous Small Models Collaboration]

- Transmits **lightweight information carriers** instead of exposing model parameters
- Typically uses **knowledge distillation**-based approaches



② HtFLlib: heterogeneous FL algorithm library

- Beginner-friendly
- PFLlib compatible
- **10 data-free HtFL**
- **40 heterogeneous models**
- Main contributor



Scenarios and datasets

Here, we only show the MNIST dataset in the *label skew* scenario generated via Dirichlet distribution for example. Please refer to my other repository [PFLlib](#) for more help.

You can also modify codes in *PFLlib* to support model heterogeneity scenarios, but it requires much effort. In this repository, you only need to configure `system/main.py` to support model heterogeneity scenarios.

Note: you may need to manually clean checkpoint files in the `temp/` folder via `system/clean_temp_files.py` if your program crashes accidentally. You can also set a checkpoint folder by yourself to prevent automatic deletion using the `-sf` argument in the command line.

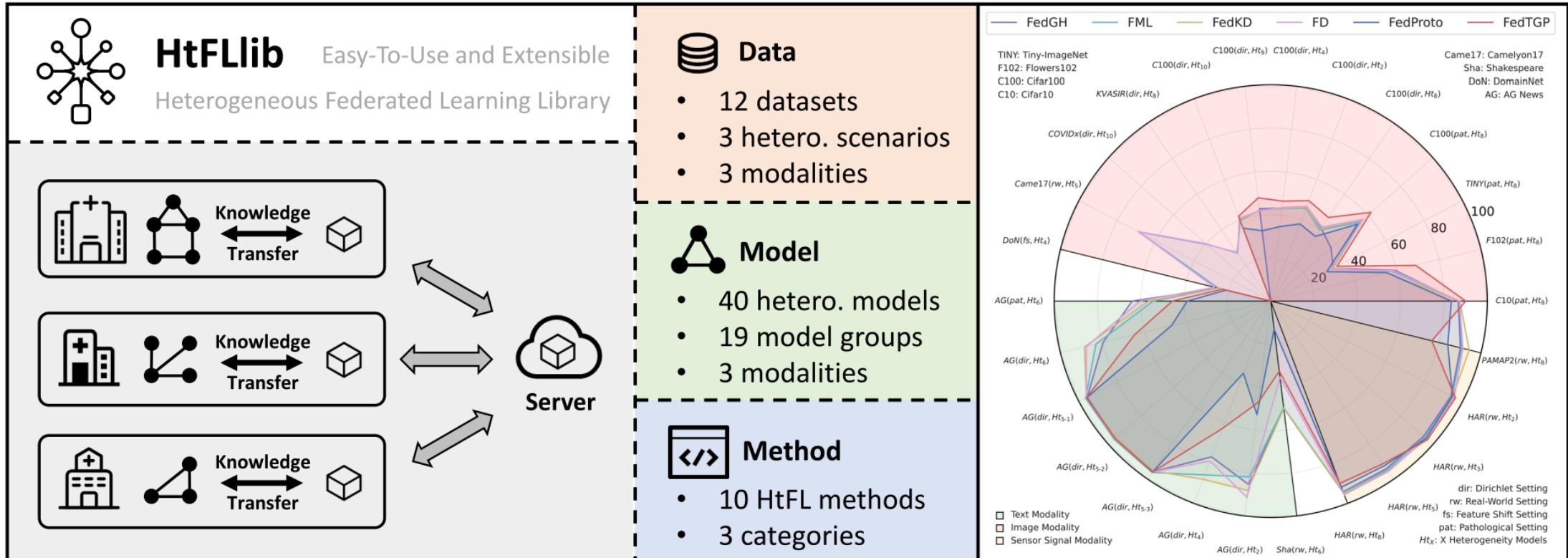
Data-free algorithms with code (updating)

Here, "data-free" refers to the absence of any additional dataset beyond the clients' private data. We only consider data-free algorithms here, as they have fewer restrictions and assumptions, making them more valuable and easily extendable to other scenarios, such as the existence of public server data.

- Local — Each client trains its model locally without federation.
- FD — [Communication-Efficient On-Device Machine Learning: Federated Distillation and Augmentation under Non-IID Private Data](#) 2018
- FML — [Federated Mutual Learning](#) 2020
- LG-FedAvg — [Think Locally, Act Globally: Federated Learning with Local and Global Representations](#) 2020
- FedGen — [Data-Free Knowledge Distillation for Heterogeneous Federated Learning](#) ICML 2021
- FedProto — [FedProto: Federated Prototype Learning across Heterogeneous Clients](#) AAAI 2022
- FedKD — [Communication-efficient federated learning via knowledge distillation](#) Nature Communications 2022
- FedGH — [FedGH: Heterogeneous Federated Learning with Generalized Global Header](#) ACM MM 2023
- FedTGP — [FedTGP: Trainable Global Prototypes with Adaptive-Margin-Enhanced Contrastive Learning for Data and Model Heterogeneity in Federated Learning](#) AAAI 2024
- FedKTL — [An Upload-Efficient Scheme for Transferring Knowledge From a Server-Side Pre-trained Generator to Clients in Heterogeneous Federated Learning](#) CVPR 2024 (Note: FedKTL requires pre-trained generators to run, please refer to its [project page](#) for download links.)
- FedMRL — [Federated Model Heterogeneous Matryoshka Representation Learning](#) NeurIPS 2024

② HtFLlib: heterogeneous FL algorithm library

- Beginner-friendly
- PFLlib compatible
- Extensible



② Publications

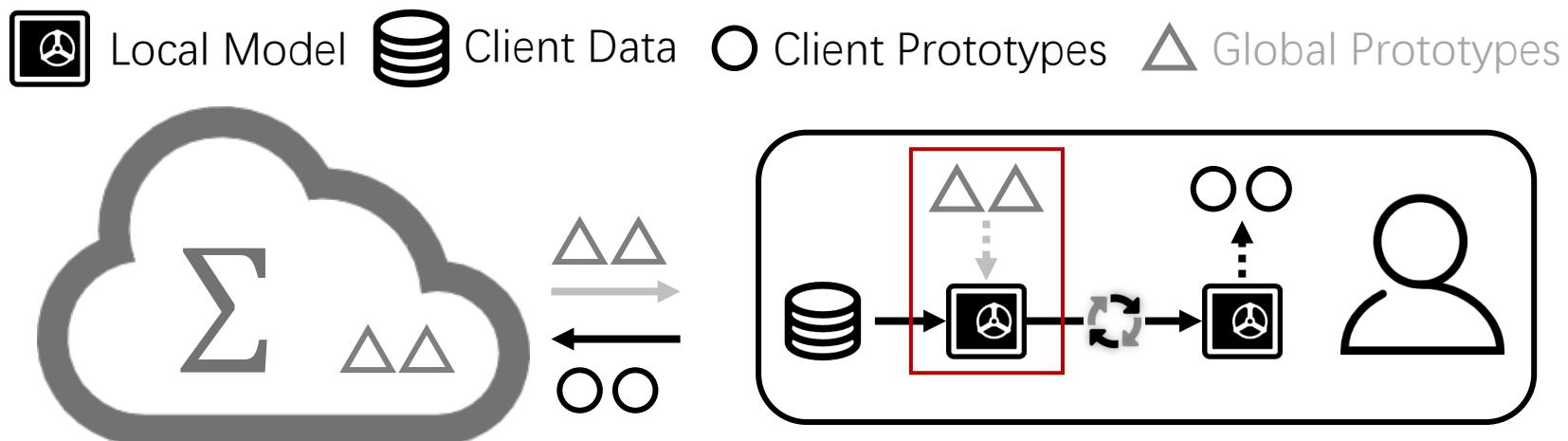
- [AAAI'24] FedTGP: Trainable Global Prototypes with Adaptive-Margin-Enhanced Contrastive Learning for Data and Model Heterogeneity in Federated Learning.
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 - The first one that integrates a large generative model (Stable Diffusion, etc.) into heterogeneous small models (ResNets, ViTs, etc.) collaboration
- How can knowledge be shared and aggregated to benefit participants?

② Publications

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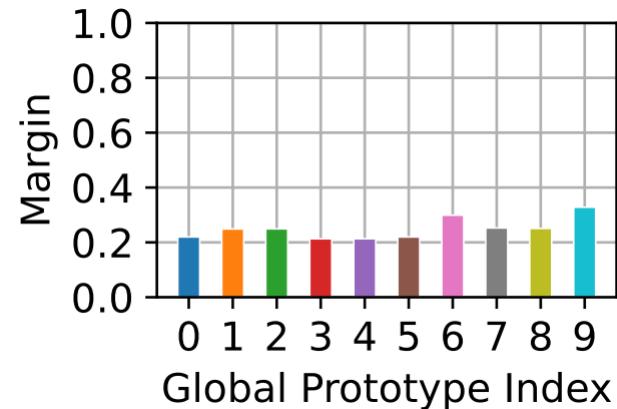
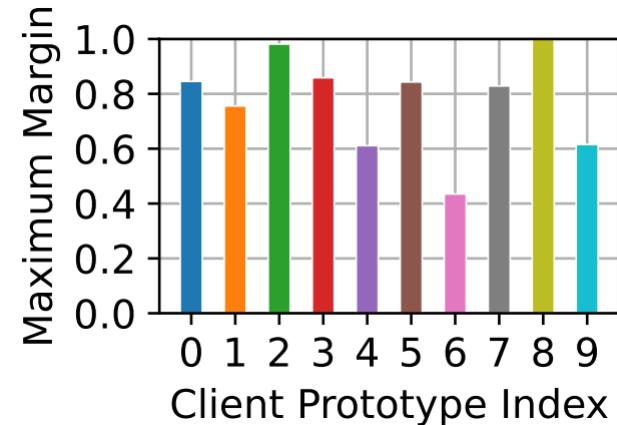
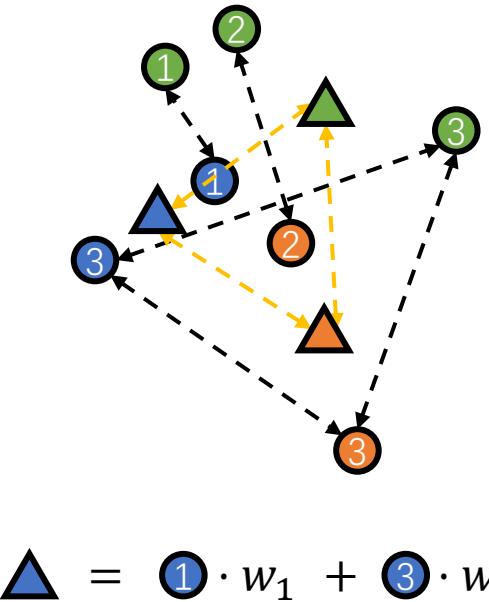
Existing HtFL

- Share **client prototypes** (class representatives) with the server
- Aggregate client prototypes to generate **global prototypes**
- Train client models in a **knowledge distillation** manner in feature space



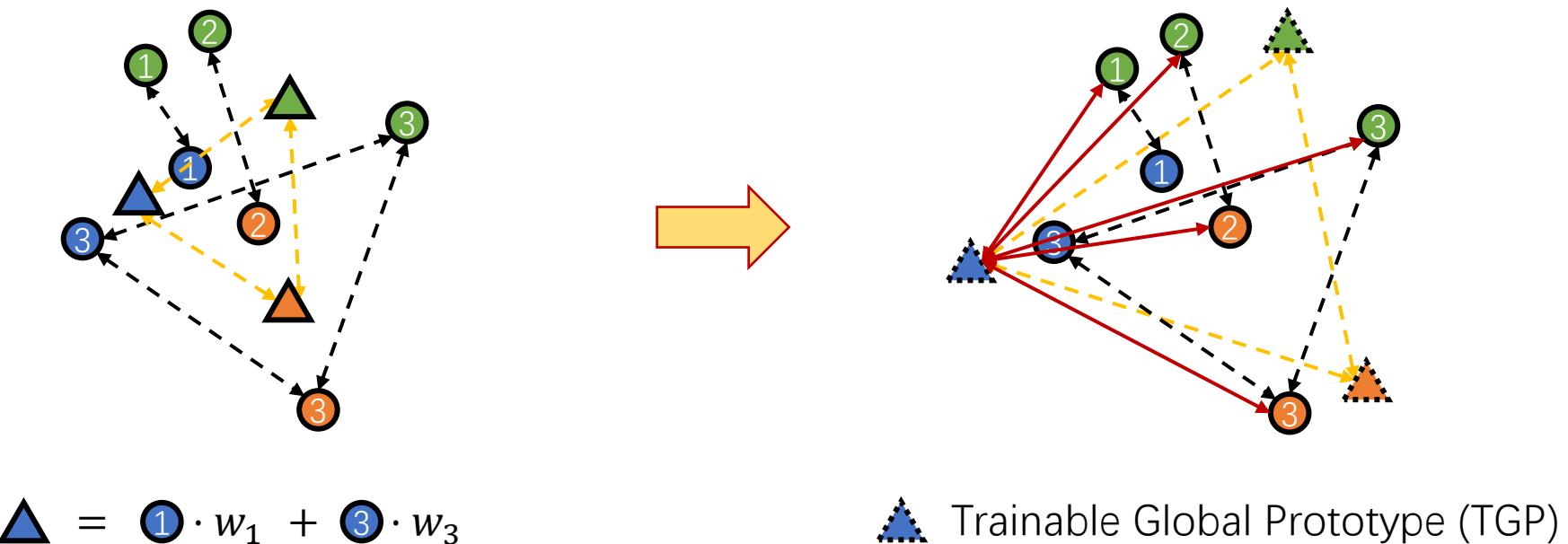
Existing HtFL

- Global prototype (Δ) margin **shrinks** after weighted-averaging



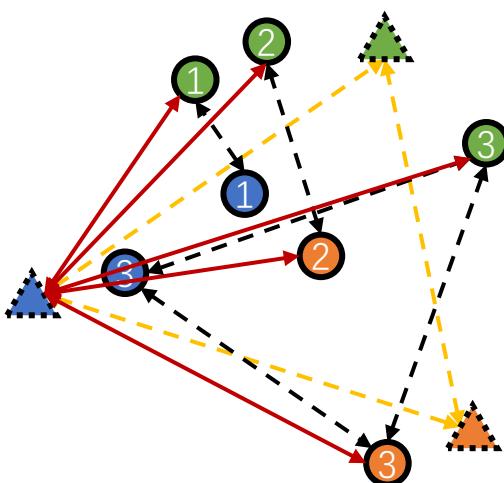
FedTGP

- Remove weighted-averaging
- Consider the uploaded client prototypes as data
- **Enlarge** the global prototype margin

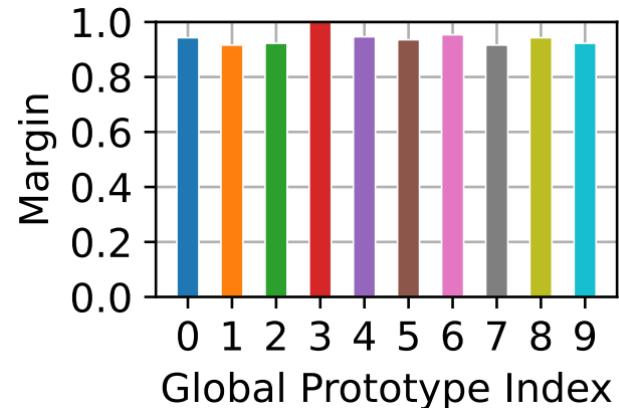
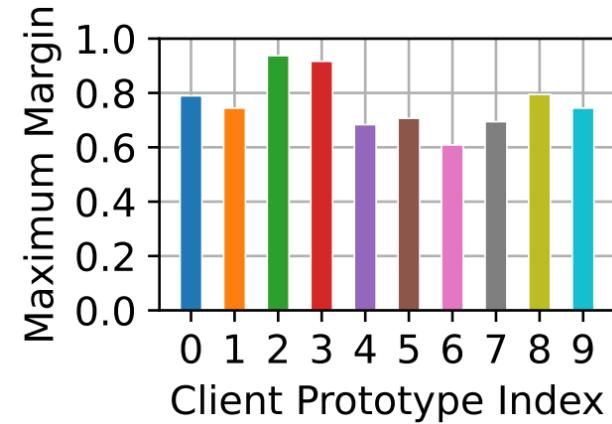


FedTGP

- Remove weighted-averaging
- Consider the uploaded client prototypes as data
- **Enlarge** the global prototype margin



▲ Trainable Global Prototype (TGP)



FedTGP

- Server objective: **Enlarge** the global prototype **margin** to improve discrimination
- **Train global prototypes** using **Adaptive-margin-enhanced Contrastive Learning (ACL)**

$$\min_{\hat{\mathcal{P}}} \sum_{c=1}^C \mathcal{L}_P^c,$$

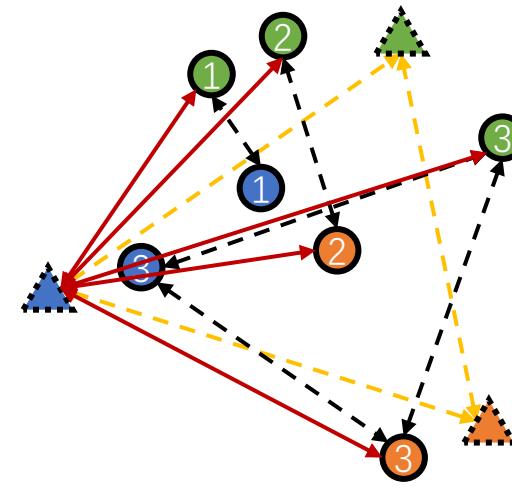
$$\mathcal{L}_P^c = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}^t} -\log \frac{e^{-(\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^c) + \delta(t))}}{e^{-(\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^c) + \delta(t))} + \sum_{c'} e^{-\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^{c'})}}$$

$$\delta(t) = \min(\max_{c \in [C], c' \in [C], c \neq c'} \phi(Q_t^c, Q_t^{c'}), \tau),$$

$$Q_t^c = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{P}_t^c|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}^t} P_i^c, \forall c \in [C]$$

τ is a margin threshold

maximum cluster margin



- ▲ \hat{P}^c : A TGP of class c
- ▲ $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$: All TGP
- P_i^c : A prototype of class c from client i

FedTGP

- **ACL** can also be applied to other tasks and scenarios

$$\mathcal{L}_P^c = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}^t} -\log \frac{e^{-(\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^c) + \delta(t))}}{e^{-(\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^c) + \delta(t))} + \sum_{c'} e^{-\phi(P_i^c, \hat{P}^{c'})}}$$

② Data scarcity

- Specific domains (e.g., **medical domain**) suffer from **data scarcity** and **privacy**
- **Generated data** serves as additional **common knowledge**



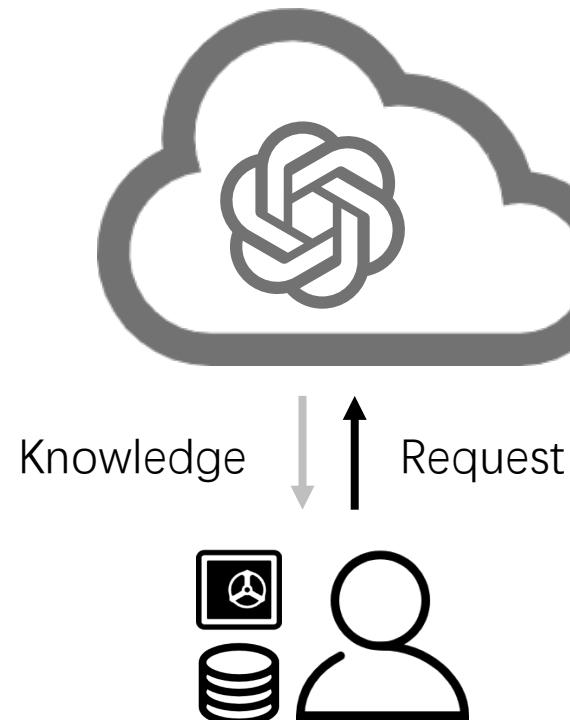
Large Generative Model



User Model

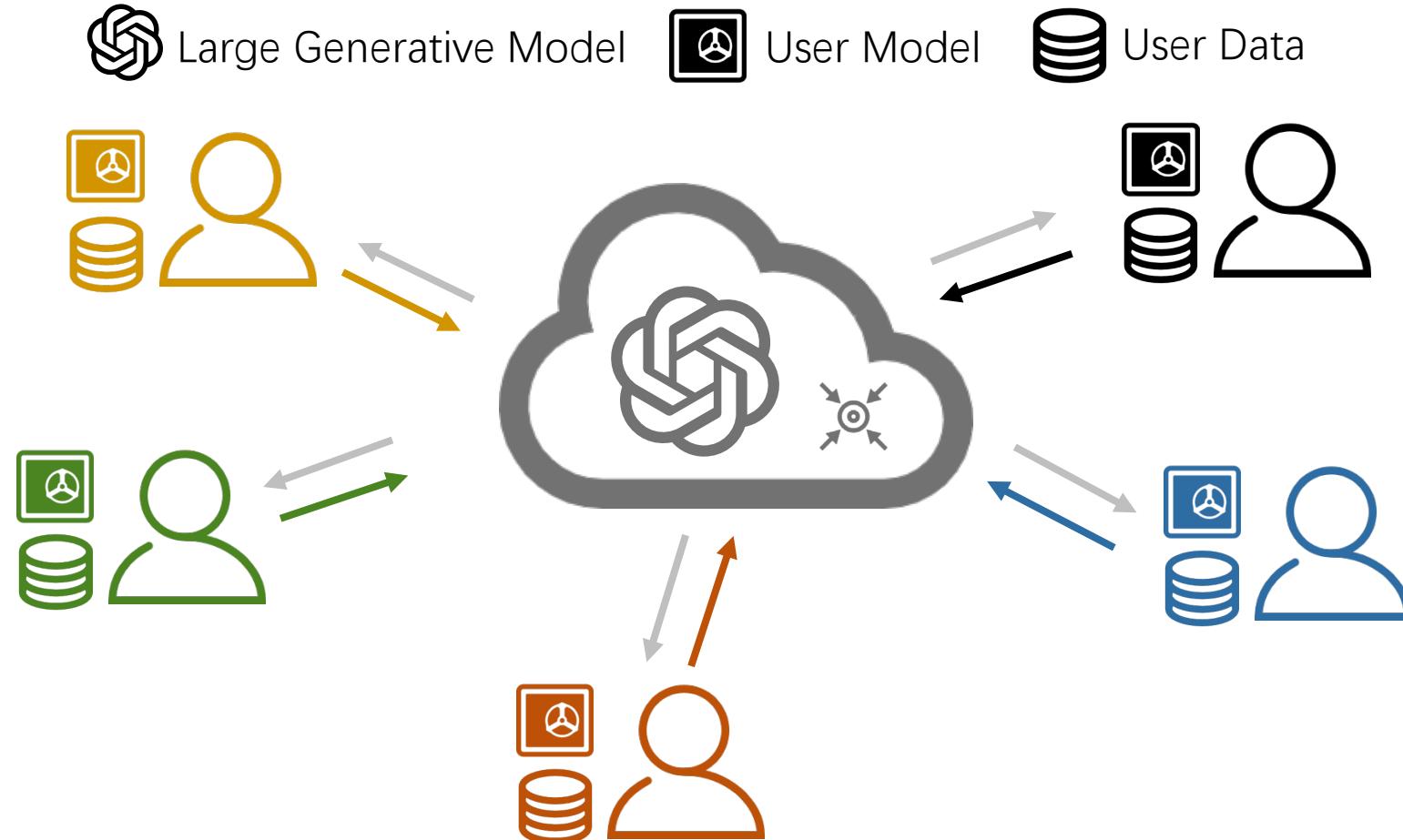


User Data



② [Large and Heterogeneous Small Models Collaboration]

- Transfer **common knowledge** from server to clients
- Transfer **task-specific knowledge** among clients

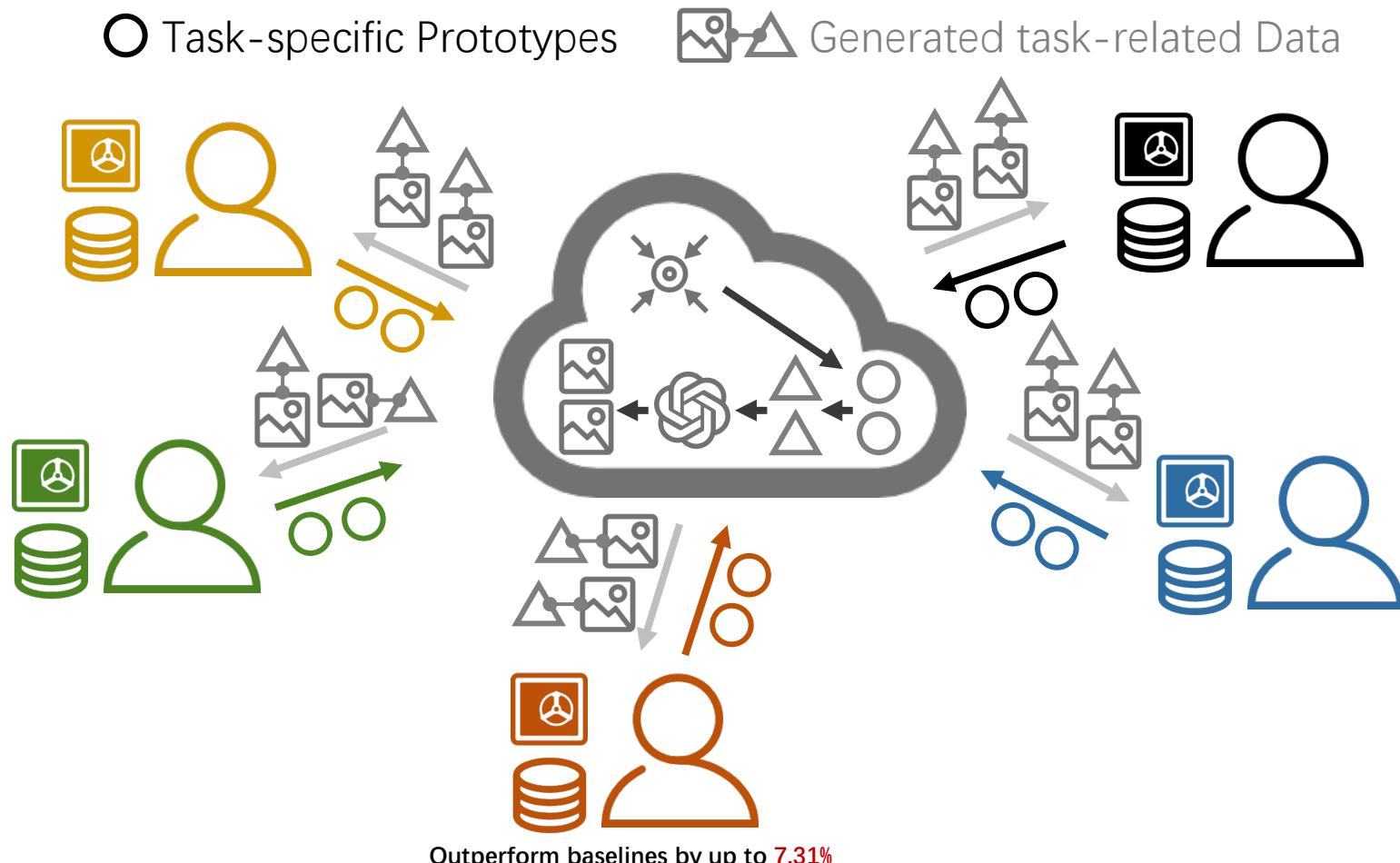


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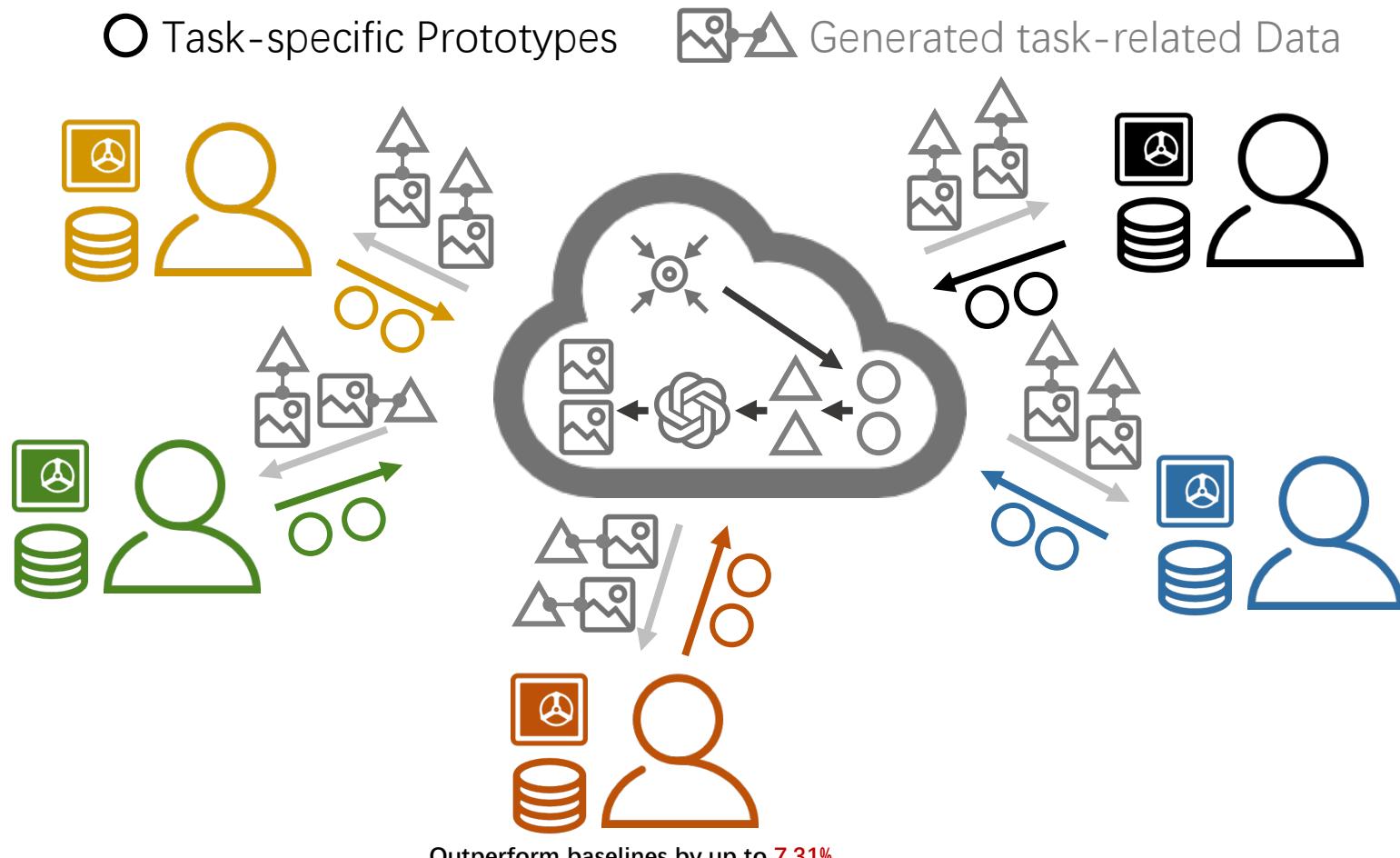
FedKTL

- Transfer **common knowledge** from the generator to clients
- Obtain **task-specific knowledge** from other clients



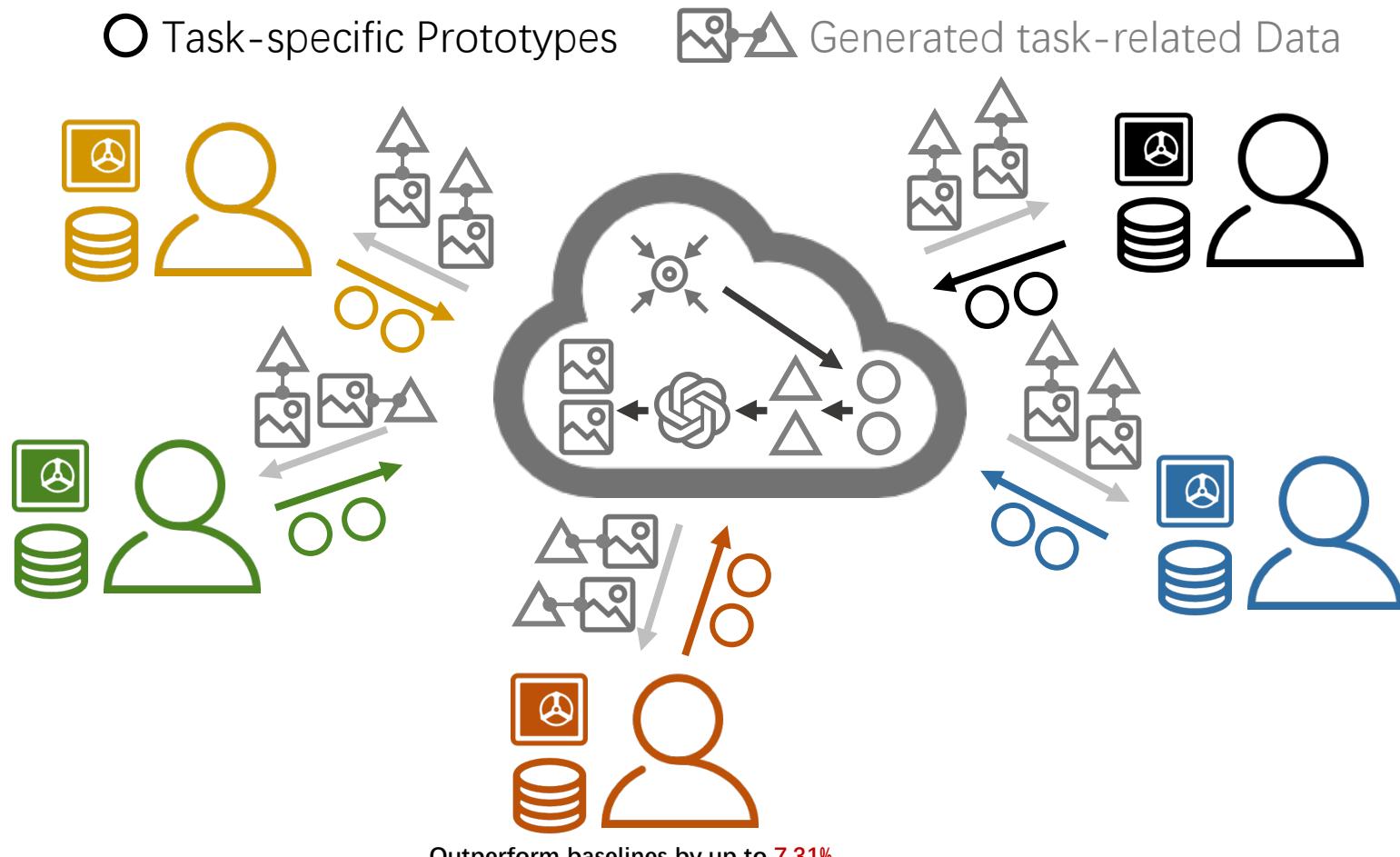
FedKTL

- Common knowledge: **generated images**
- Task-specific knowledge: **prototype vectors**



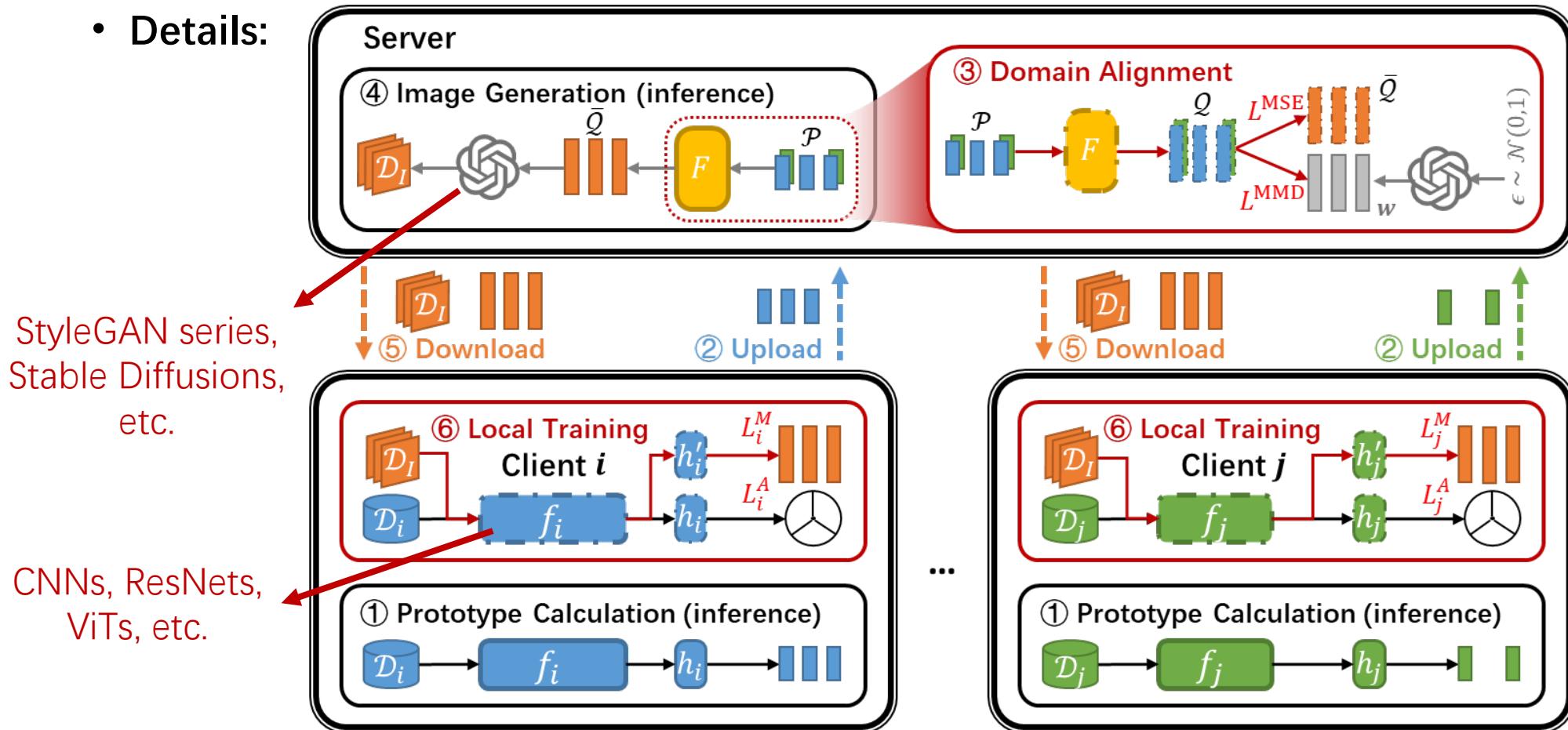
FedKTL

- Generated Images are **induced by** prototype vectors
- Image-vector pairs** are **task-related** data that **contain common knowledge**



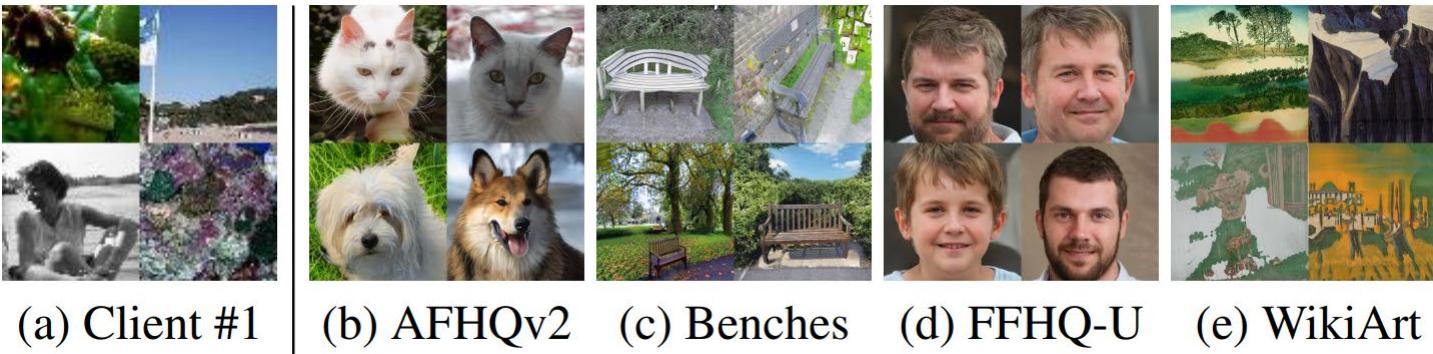
FedKTL

- One image per class is sufficient for FedKTL
- Transfer knowledge using an **additional supervised local task**
- Details:



FedKTL

- FedKTL can **adapt to various generators** that were pre-trained using various datasets
- The **semantics of the generated images** can be different from clients' data



Generators pre-trained on different image datasets

	$\lambda = 0.05$	$\lambda = 0.1$	$\lambda = 0.5$
AFHQv2	26.82 ± 0.32	27.05 ± 0.26	26.32 ± 0.52
Bench	27.71 ± 0.25	28.36 ± 0.42	27.56 ± 0.50
FFHQ-U	27.28 ± 0.23	27.21 ± 0.35	26.59 ± 0.47
WikiArt	27.37 ± 0.51	27.48 ± 0.33	27.30 ± 0.15

FedKTL

- **Knowledge transfer scheme (KTL)** is also applicable in scenarios with **only one edge client**.
- The **cloud-edge** scenario

Settings	100-way 23-shot	100-way 9-shot	100-way 2-shot
Client Data	12.53±0.39	7.55±0.41	4.44±1.66
Our KTL	13.02±0.43	8.88±0.62	8.76±2.25
Improvement	0.49	1.33	4.32
Improvement Ratio	3.91%	17.61%	97.29%

Table 9. The test accuracy (%) with Cifar100's subsets on a single client using a small model *i.e.*, the 4-layer CNN.

Feel free to contact me!

Home page: <https://github.com/TsingZ0>



Thanks!