

# Federated Learning On a Cluster

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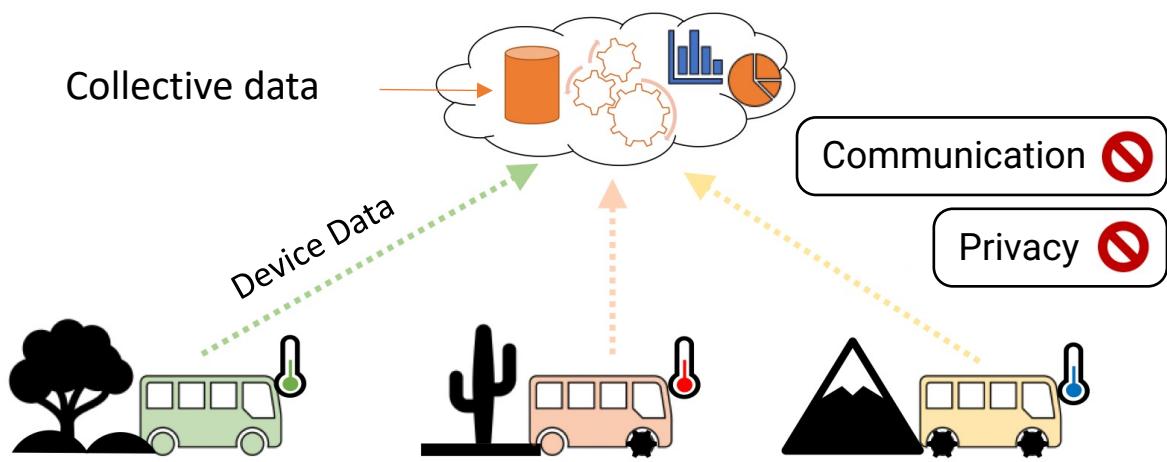
Group 17

ECE 6115



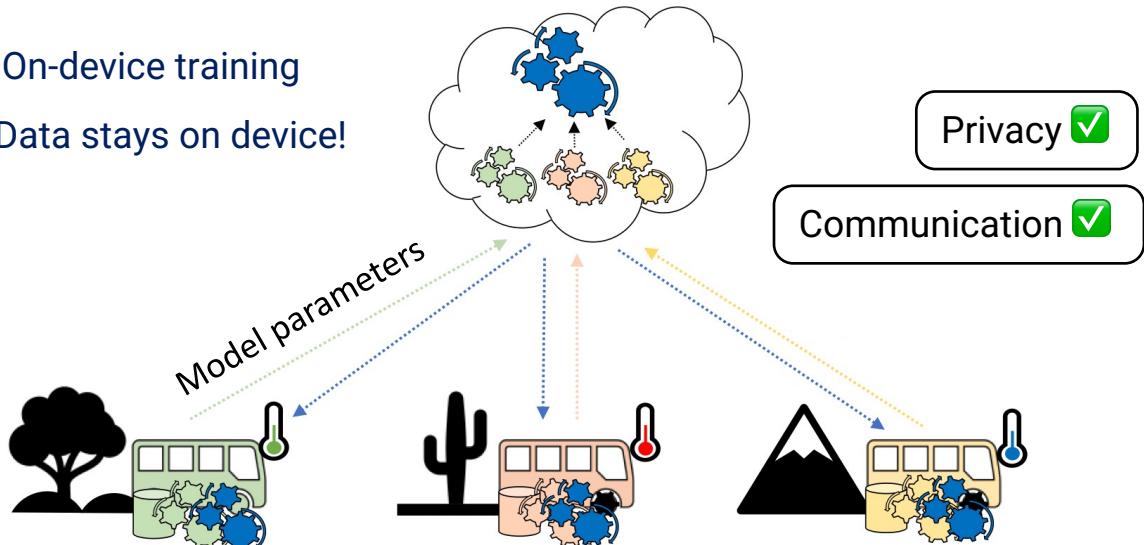


# Centralized Learning

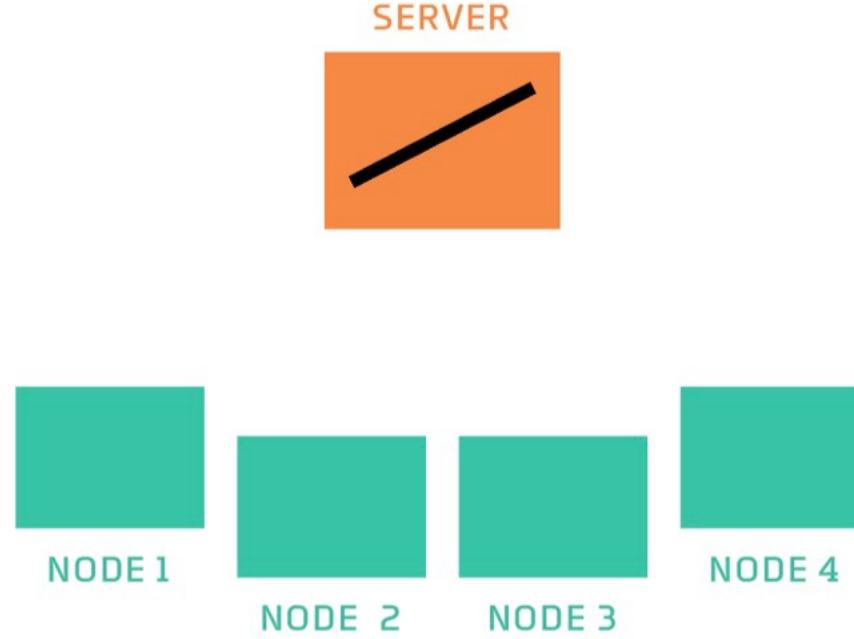


# Federated Learning

On-device training  
Data stays on device!

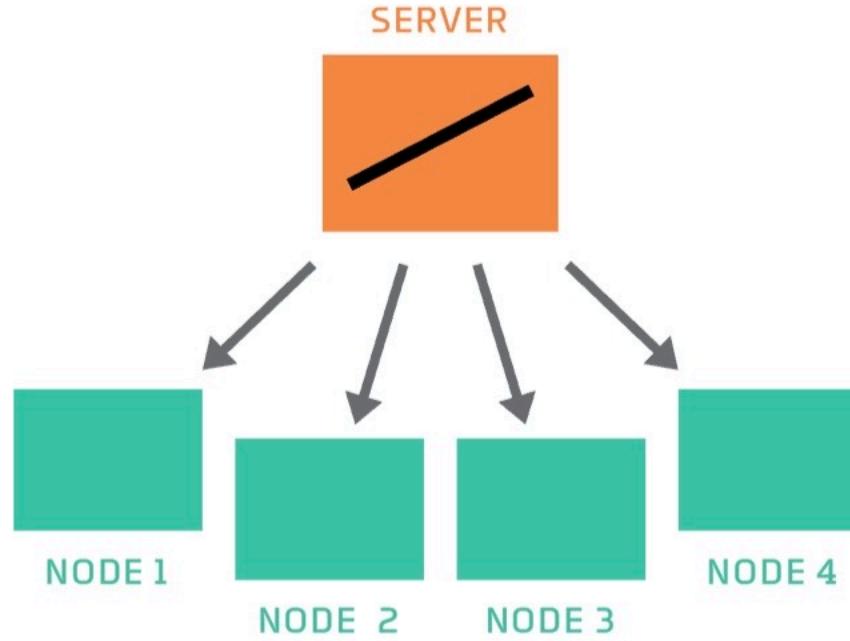


# Federated Learning



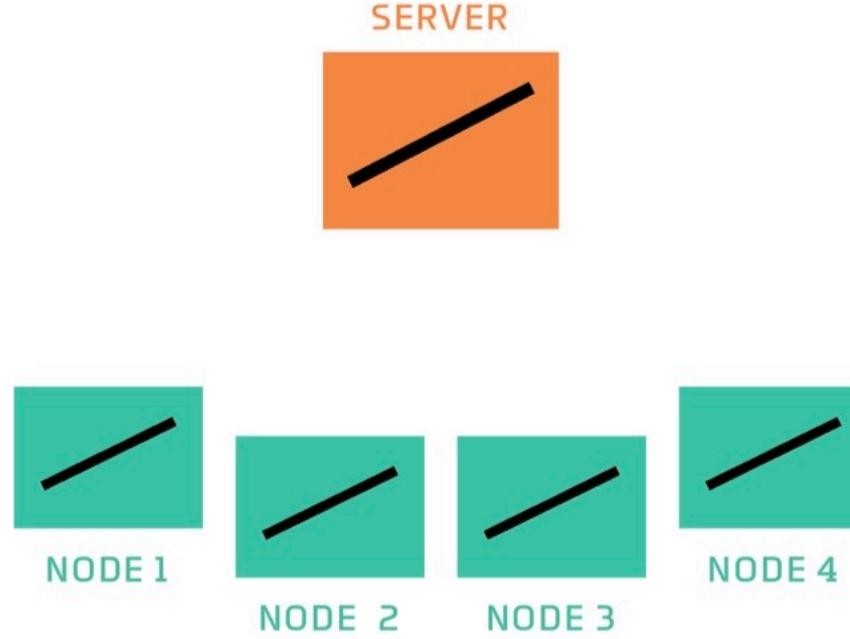
Untrained model on the server  
with randomly initialized parameters

# Federated Learning



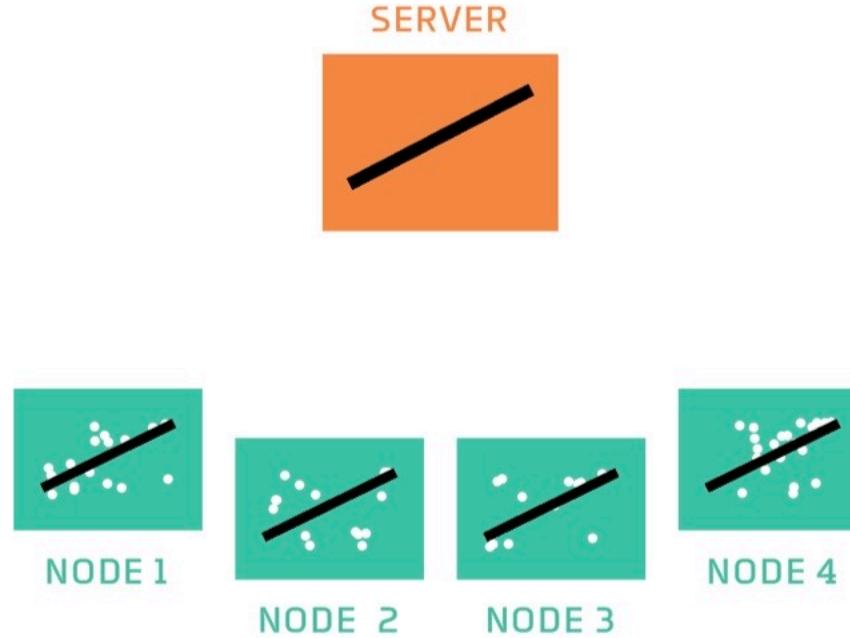
Send a copy of the model  
to all nodes

# Federated Learning



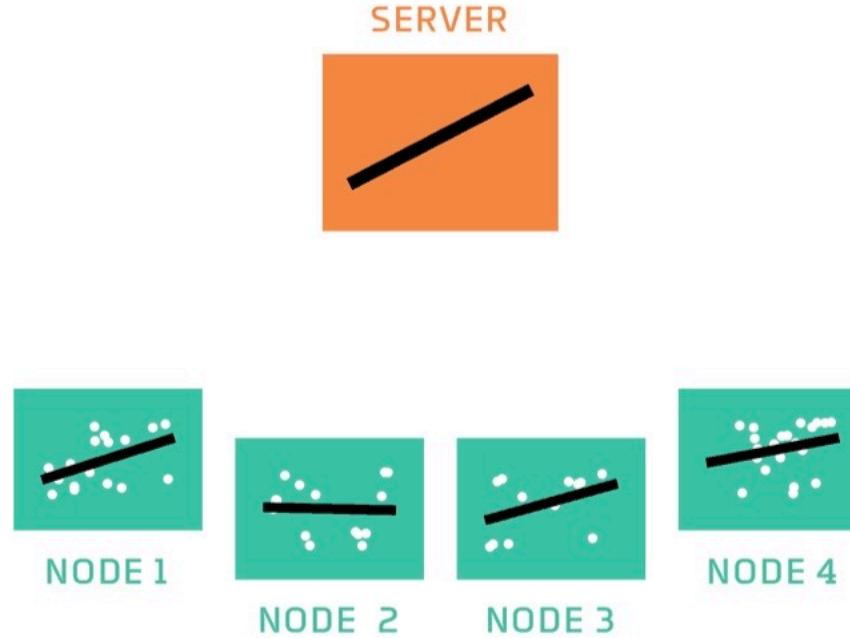
Server instructs nodes to train  
their model instance

# Federated Learning



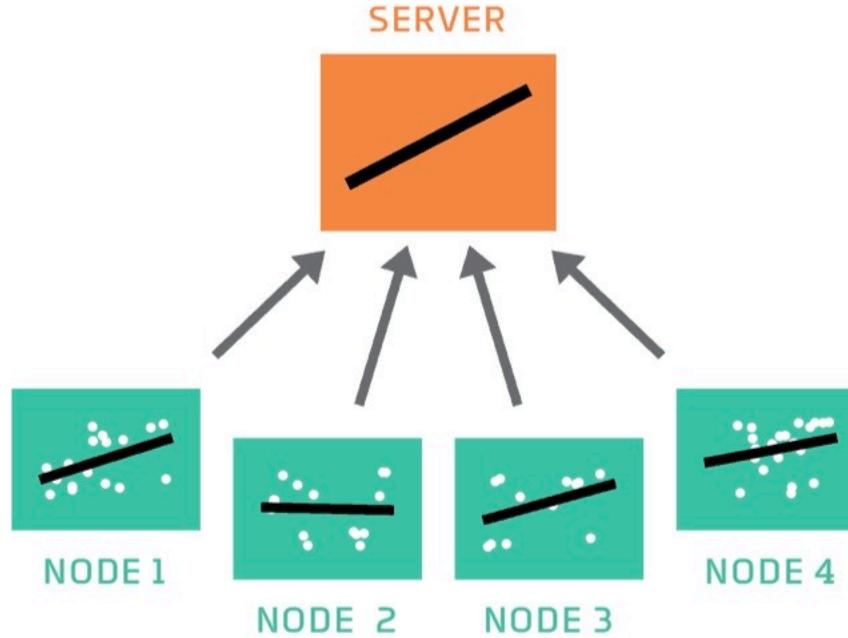
Nodes acquire or load  
some training data

# Federated Learning



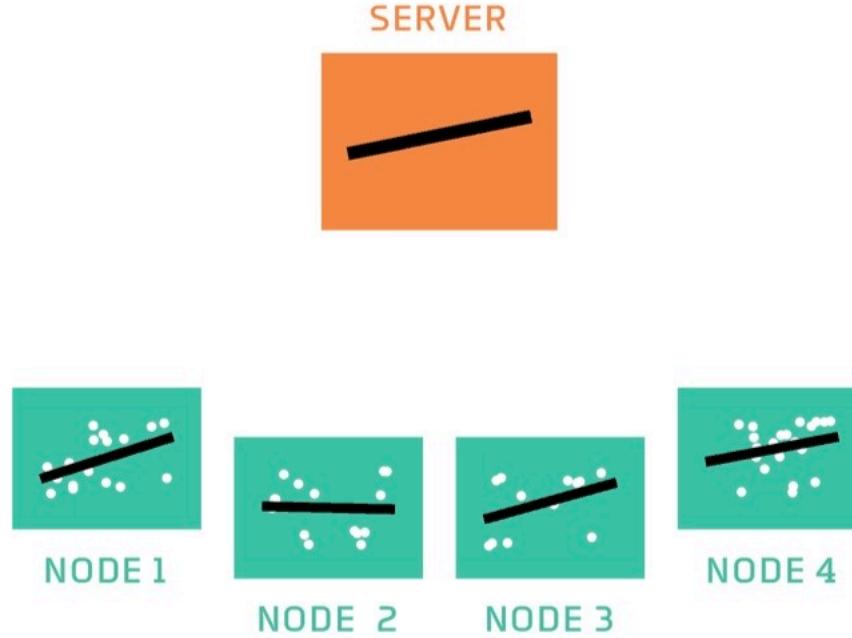
Nodes train their model  
incrementally

# Federated Learning



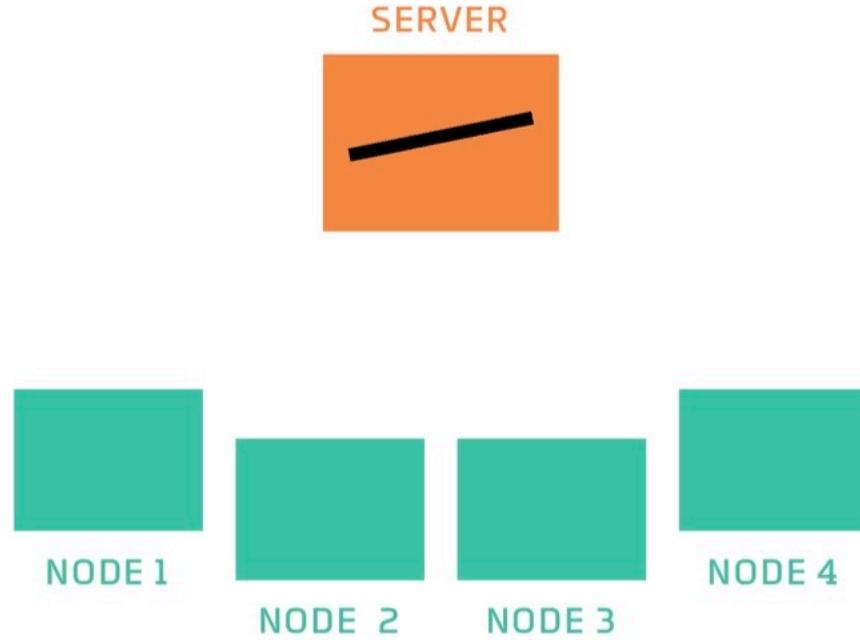
Each node sends a copy of  
their model back to the server

# Federated Averaging!



Server averages the models  
received from all nodes

# Federated Round Complete

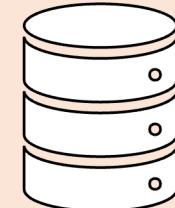


Repeat as required.

# FLOC Phases

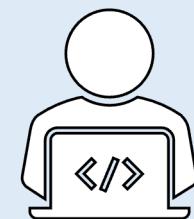
## 1. Setting up cluster of Pynq-Z2 Boards

- Demonstration of distributed computation



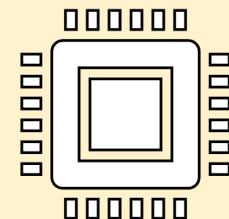
## 2. Simulating Federated Learning (FL) model

- Federated MNIST digit recognition with MLP
- Analysis of algorithm/communication cost



## 3. Deploying the FL model on the cluster

- Analysis of hardware/computation cost



# Pynq-Z2 Cluster Setup

## Pynq Board and Framework

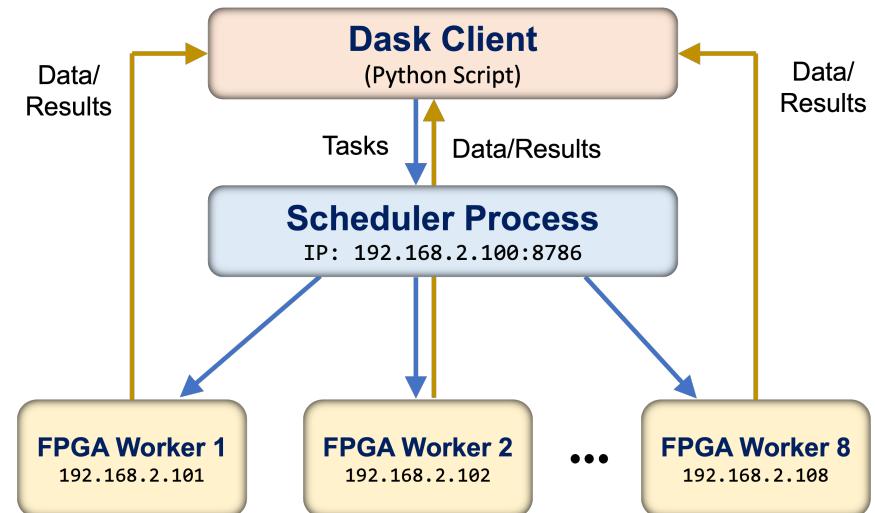
- 32-bit ARM core (Processing System)
- Xilinx FPGA (Programmable Logic)
- Jupyter access over web browser

## Dask.distributed Python Library

- Distributed computation APIs
- Lightweight, dynamic task scheduler
- Supports complex workflows



Cluster with 8 Pynq-Z2 boards,  
router, switch and powered USB hub



Pynq-Dask Cluster Architecture

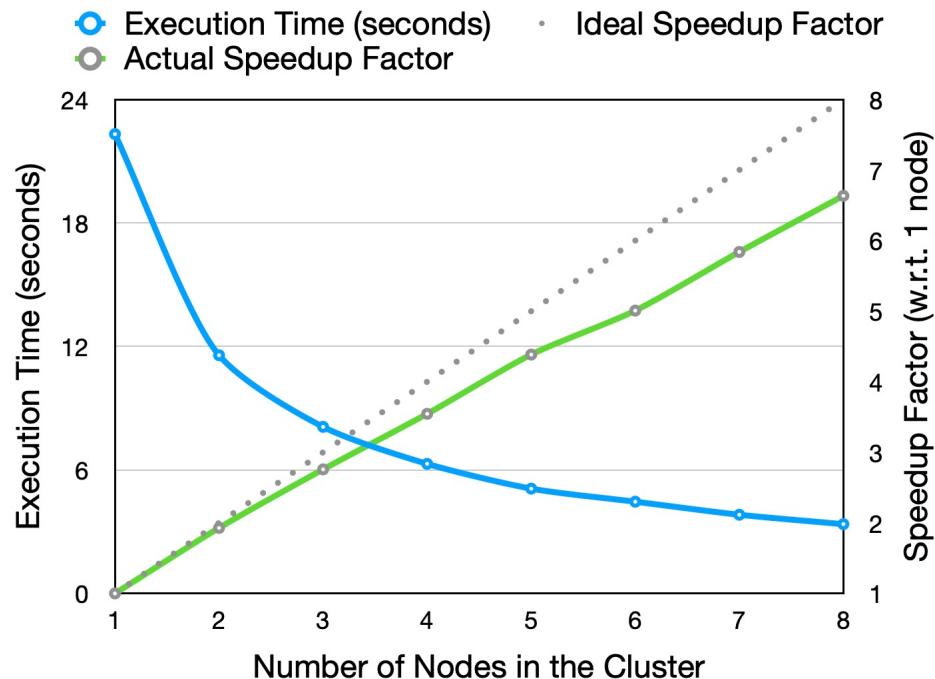
# Distributed Computation Demo

Dask divides computation task equally among connected nodes.

$$N = 100 \text{ million}$$

$X = [\text{Randomly initialized array with } N \text{ elements}]$

$$Y = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} e^{X[i]}$$



Deviation from ideal speedup due to **network overhead!**

# Federated Learning Simulation

- 🎯 Analyze communication cost associated with a FL model
- 🔍 Compare performance against a centralized model

## Model

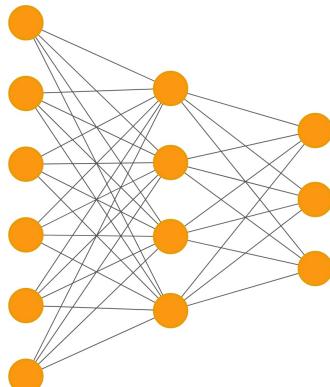
- 2-layer MLP classification model
- $784 \times 100 \times 10$
- Activations:  
ReLU and Softmax

## Dataset

- MNIST (10 labels)
  - 50k train, 10k test
- IID training data (Ideal)
  - Equal data/label
  - Even distribution of labels/node

## Cluster Configuration

- 1 central server (main model)
- 2, 4, and 8 clients for decentralized, federated training



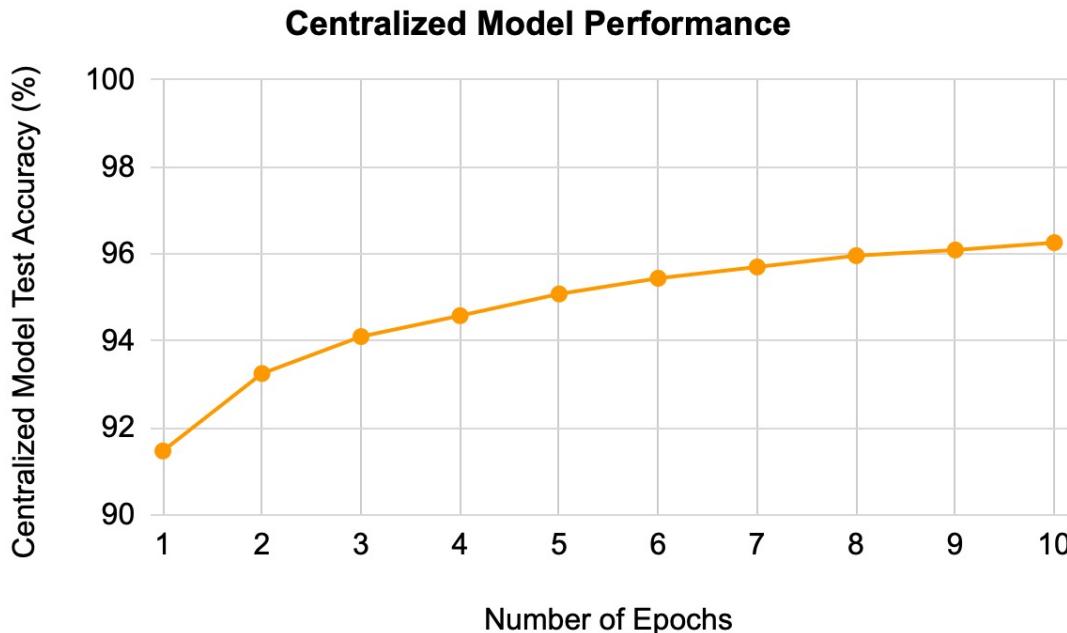
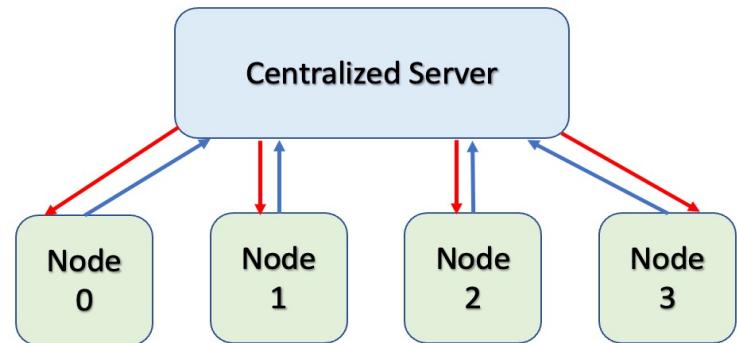
3	6	8	1	7	9	6	6	9	1
6	7	5	7	8	6	3	4	8	5
2	1	7	9	7	1	2	8	4	6
4	8	1	9	0	1	8	8	9	4
7	6	1	8	6	4	1	5	6	0
7	5	9	2	6	5	8	1	9	7
2	2	2	2	3	4	4	8	0	
0	2	3	8	0	7	3	8	5	7
0	1	4	6	4	6	0	2	4	3
7	1	2	8	7	6	9	8	6	1



# Baseline: Centralized Model Training

- Training Configuration:
  - Total training data: **44960** images
  - Number of epochs: **10**
  - Batch size: **100**
- Total test data: **10000** images

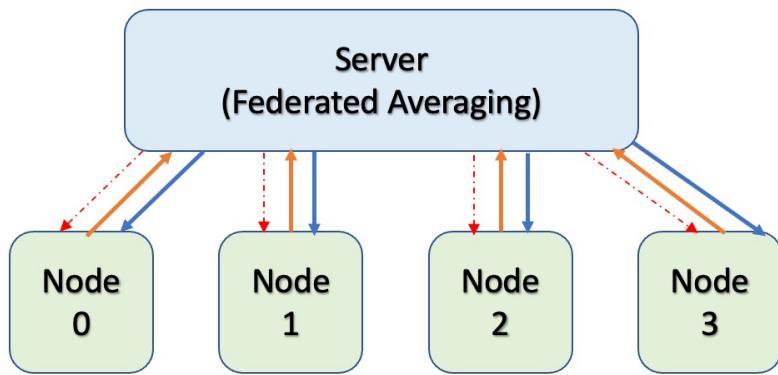
Blue arrow: Data Sent from the edge devices to the server  
Red arrow: Trained Model sent from the server to the edge devices



Baseline test accuracy  
after 10 epochs:  
**96.26%**

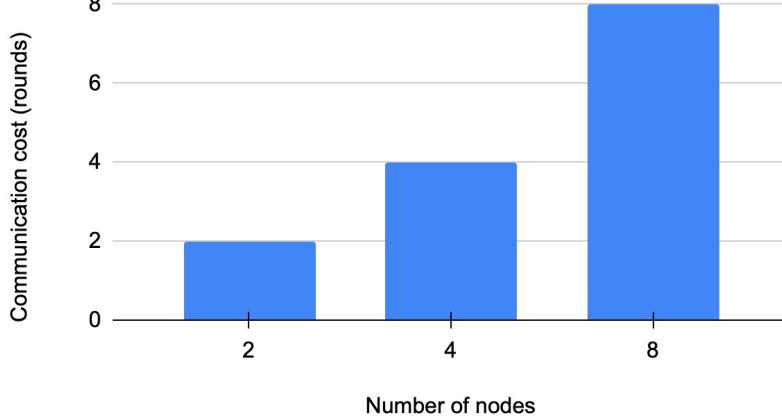
# Performance Analysis of FL Model

- Server instructs the nodes to start the training process
- Nodes send their partially trained models to the server
- Server sends the updated model (after federated averaging) to the nodes for the next iteration

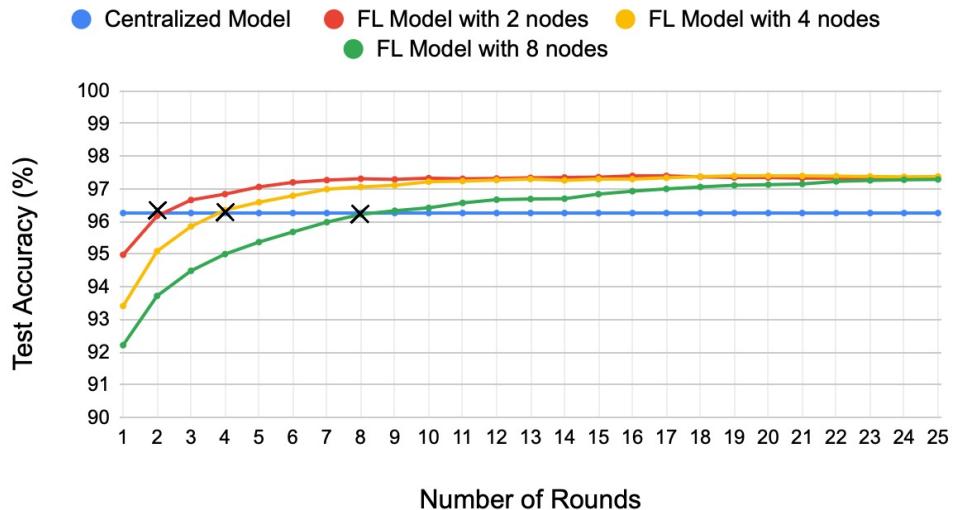


#Nodes	Train/label/node
1	4496
2	2248
4	1124
8	562

## Cost of Privacy



## Centralized vs Federated Comparison



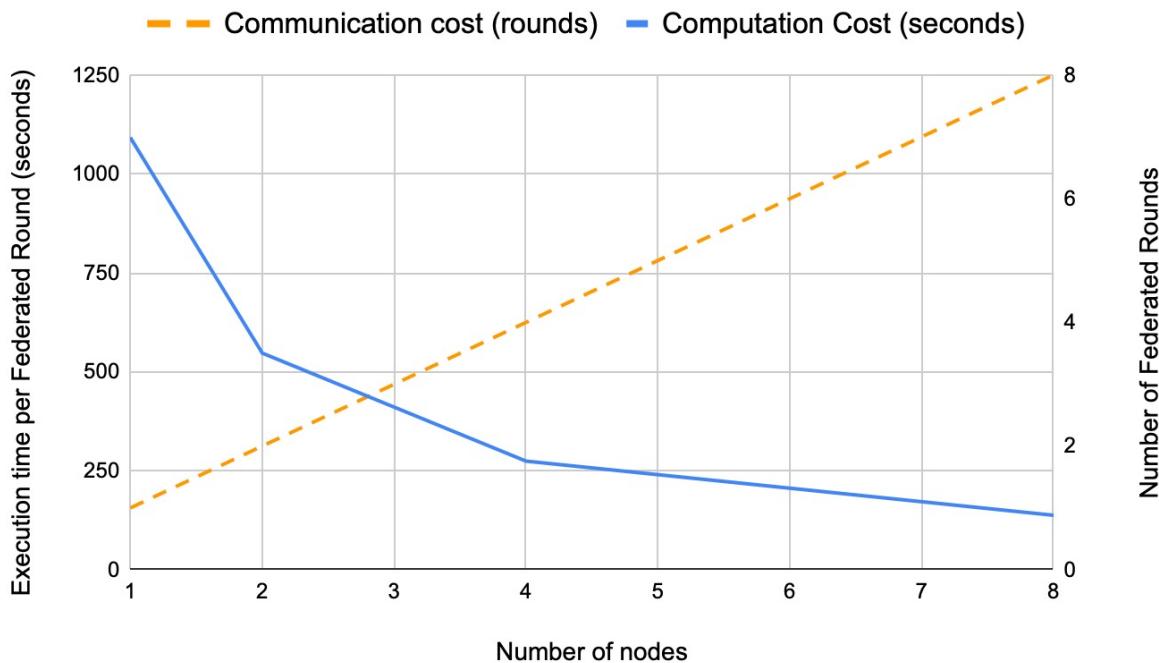
\*Training and test configuration same as the centralized model for fair evaluation

# Deploying FL Model on Pynq Cluster

- FL model deployed on a homogeneous cluster with 2, 4, and 8 nodes.
- Processing System (PS) of Pynq-Z2 boards used for on-device training.



Computation Cost vs. Communication Cost



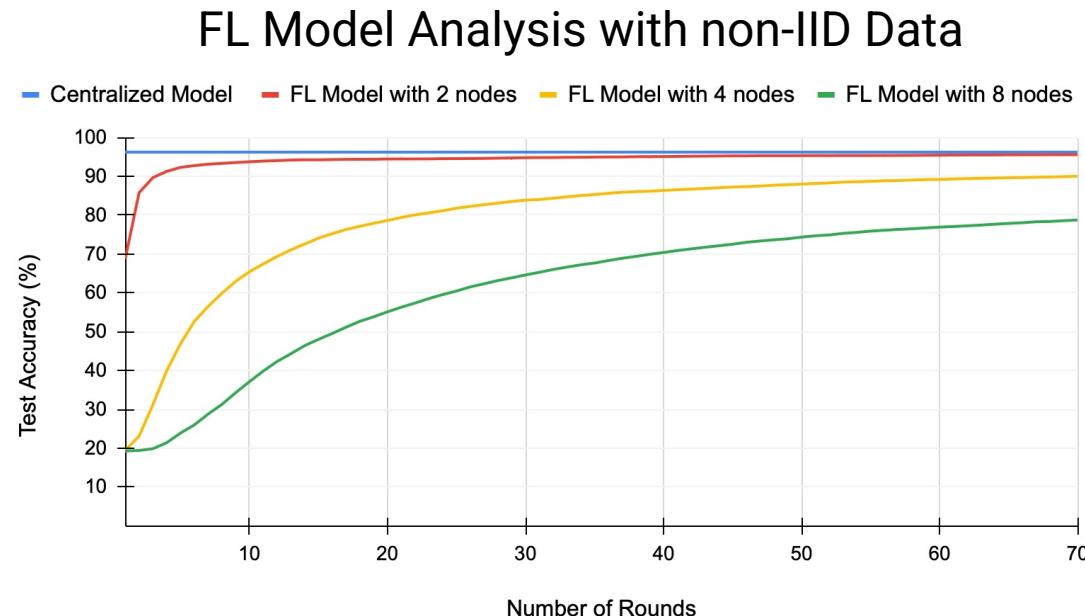
Number of Federated Rounds

Number of nodes  
Hardware burden  
Network burden



# Practical Case: Non-IID Data

- Practical Scenario:
  - Unequal training data/node
  - **Unequal labels/node**
- No. of federated rounds **highly sensitive** to the data distribution per node
- Federated rounds required are significantly **higher** due to uneven data distribution



0 - 4

0 – 1  
8 - 9

2 - 3  
8 - 9

0  
8 - 9

1  
8 - 9

2  
8 - 9

3  
8 - 9

5 - 9

4 - 5  
8 - 9

6 - 7  
8 - 9

4  
8 - 9

5  
8 - 9

6  
8 - 9

7  
8 - 9

Label Distribution  
for 2 nodes

Label Distribution  
for 4 nodes

Label Distribution  
for 8 nodes

# Summary and Future Work

Proof-of-Concept

Demonstrated a plain vanilla Federated Learning model on a homogenous cluster of FPGA boards

Framework

Build on the algorithmic, networking, and reconfigurable hardware components

Training on FPGAs

Off-load training onto FPGA fabric and analyze the impact of precision on model performance

# Design Choices and Final Thoughts

**Why Pynq, not Pi?**

Multi-FPGA extension to  
FL relatively unexplored

**Why Dask, you ask?**

Powerful APIs  
abstract data packet  
handling



**Our project:** Simplified FL on homogeneous cluster

**Practical challenges with FL:**

Heterogeneity, Uneven data distribution

Malicious nodes, Node dropping

# An Interesting Read!



<https://federated.withgoogle.com>

