

# Federated Model Distillation with Noise-Free Differential Privacy 2021

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## Contributions

1. Centralized differential privacy(CDP) requires a central trusted party
2. Local differential privacy(LDP) only support shallow models such as logistic regression and only focus on simple tasks and datasets
3. Conventional FL system suffers from several intrinsic limitations:(1) it requires every party to share their local model weights in each round, thus limiting only to models with homogeneous architectures; (2) sharing model weight incurs a significant privacy issue of local model, as it opens all the internal state of the model to white-box inference attacks; (3) model weight is usually of much higher dimension than model predictions, resulting in huge communication overhead and higher privacy cost.

- Author propose FEDMD-NFDP, a novel federated model distillation framework with the new proposed noise-free differential privacy (NFDP) mechanism that guarantees each party's privacy without explicitly adding any noise.
- prove that NFDP with both replacement and without replacement sampling strategies can inherently ensure  $(\epsilon, \sigma)$ -differential privacy, eliminating noise addition and privacy cost explosion issues explicitly in previous works.
- Extensive experiments on benchmark datasets, various settings (IID and Non-IID data distribution), and heterogeneous model architectures, demonstrate that FEDMDNFDP achieves comparable utility with only a few private samples that are randomly sampled from each party, validating the numerous benefits of our framework.

## Method

- FEDMD-NFDP

- (1)during initialization phase, every party  $i$  updates its local model weights  $\omega_i$  on a randomly sampled subset  $(X_i, Y_i) \in D_i$  from local private training data  $D_i$  for  $T_i$  times without any collaboration
- (2)during collaboration phase, parties share the knowledge of their local model via their predictions on a subset of public data,  $X_p$

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8: Collaboration phase
9:  $Y_p[0] = f_{\text{Aggreg}}(\{Y_p^{i \in [N]}[0]\})$   $\triangleright$  Initial aggregation at the
   server
10: for  $t \in [R]$  communication rounds do
11:   Server randomly samples a public subset  $X_p[t+1] \in D_p$ 
12:   for  $i \in [N]$  parties do  $\triangleright$  Each party updates local
   weight  $w_i$  in parallel
13:     for  $j \in [T_2]$  epochs do
14:       Digest:  $w_i \leftarrow \text{TRAIN}(w_i, X_p[t], Y_p[t])$ 
15:     end for
16:     for  $j \in [T_3]$  epochs do
17:       Revisit:  $w_i \leftarrow \text{TRAIN}(w_i, X_i, Y_i)$ 
18:     end for
19:     Send  $Y_p^i[t+1] = \text{PREDICT}(w_i; X_p[t+1])$  to the
   server
20:   end for
21:    $Y_p[t+1] = f_{\text{Aggreg}}(\{Y_p^{i \in [N]}[t+1]\})$   $\triangleright$  Prediction
   aggregation at the server
22: end for
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- NFDP mechanism

**Theorem 1.** [NFDP mechanism:  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy of sampling without replacement] Given a training dataset of size  $n$ , sampling without replacement achieves  $(\ln \frac{n+1}{n+1-k}, \frac{k}{n})$ -differential privacy, where  $k$  is the subsample size.

**Theorem 2.** [NFDP mechanism:  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential privacy of sampling with replacement] Given a training dataset of size  $n$ , sampling with replacement achieves  $((k \ln \frac{n+1}{n}, 1 - (\frac{n-1}{n})^k)$ -differential privacy, where  $k$  is the subsample size.

**Lemma 1.** Algorithm 1 using sampling with replacement is consistently more private than using sampling without replacement for any  $n > 0$  and  $0 < k \leq n$ .

## Experimental

- MNIST/FEDMNIST and CIFAR-10/CIFAR-100
  - (1) IID - Non-IID
  - (2) Local model - two or three-layer DNN
  - (3) pytorch GPU NVIDIA Tesla V100 -  $N = 10$
- subset of size 5000,  $R = 20, T1 = 20, T2 = 2, T3 = 1$
- FEDMD-NFDP - FEDMD-NP/Centralized/FEDMD-LDP
- DP -  $(\epsilon, \sigma)$ /model convergence/distillation approaches/IID Non-IID/number of party/

FEDMNIST	k	$\epsilon$	$\delta$	Accuracy	CIFAR-10	k	$\epsilon$	$\delta$	Accuracy
FEDMD-NP	2880	$+\infty$	1	96.15%	FEDMD-NP	300	$+\infty$	1	86.88%
Centralized	2880	$+\infty$	1	98.00%	Centralized	300	$+\infty$	1	88.83%
FEDMD-NFDP	16	0.0027	0.0062	80.64%	FEDMD-NFDP	16	0.0260	0.0583	74.40%
FEDMD-NFDP	60	0.0090	0.0206	88.06%	FEDMD-NFDP	60	0.0867	0.1815	81.58%
FEDMD-NFDP	300	0.0452	0.0989	93.56%	FEDMD-NFDP	120	0.1734	0.3301	83.57%
FEDMD-NFDP	2880	0.4342	0.6321	96.63%	FEDMD-NFDP	300	0.4336	0.6327	87.38%

Table 2: Comparisons with All Baselines