

# PhD Defense

Striking the Balance:

Optimizing Privacy, Utility, and Complexity in Private Machine Learning

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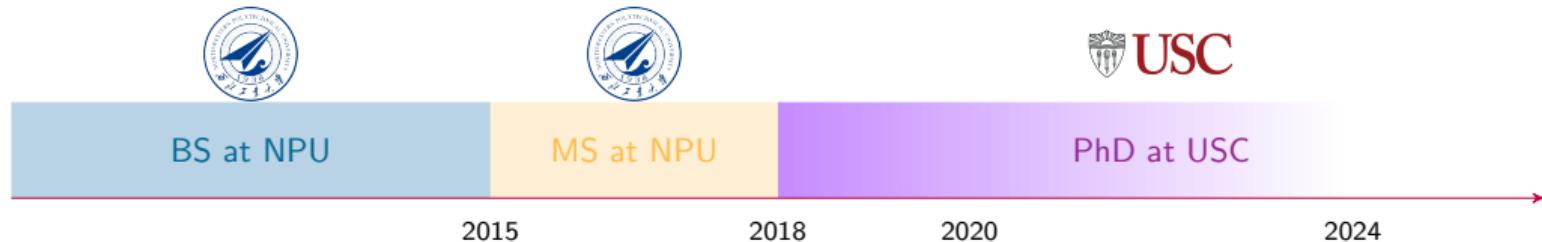
Committee: Salman Avestimehr (Chair), Murali Annavaram, Meisam Razaviyayn

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**USC**Viterbi

School of Engineering  
*Ming Hsieh Department of  
Electrical and Computer Engineering*

# About Me



# About Me

## Research Areas:

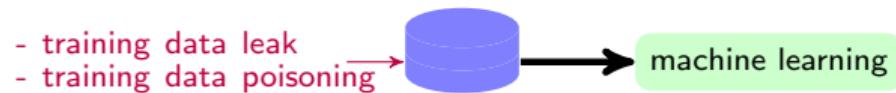
- ▶ ML/LLM compression and acceleration [CVPR'24, FPGA'20, HiPC'19, ···]
  - ▶ model pruning
  - ▶ low-rank compression
  - ▶ hardware architecture design
- ▶ **Efficient private ML** [CVPR'24, PETS'24, TMC'24, TMLR'23, NeurIPS-FL'23, PETS'22, ···]
  - ▶ differential privacy
  - ▶ federated learning
  - ▶ trusted execution environments
- ▶ LLM privacy, fairness and bias [NAACL'24, AAAI-ReLM'24]
- ▶ Stochastic optimization [TMLR'23, ICML'21 Workshop on Optimization]

# About Me

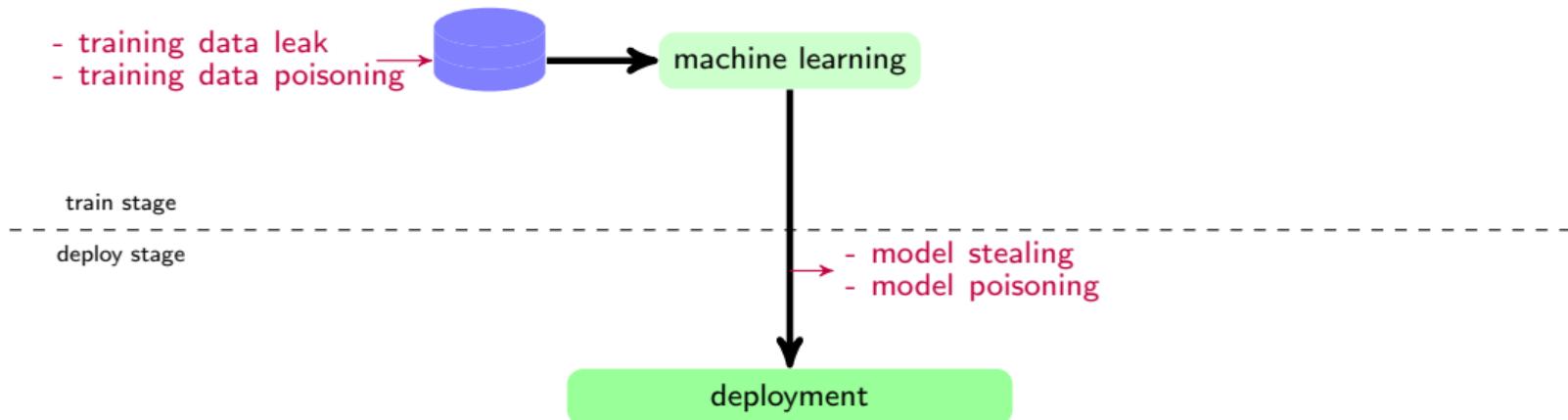
## Research Areas:

- ▶ ML/LLM compression and acceleration [CVPR'24, FPGA'20, HiPC'19, ···]
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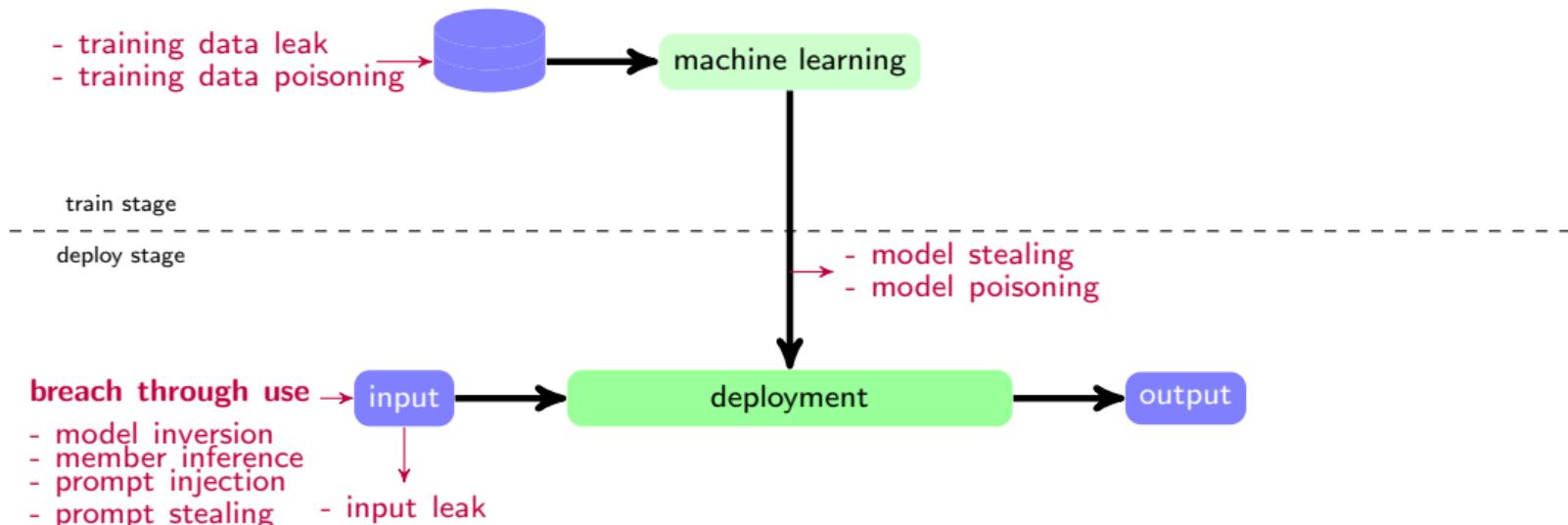
# Privacy Breach in Machine Learning Pipeline



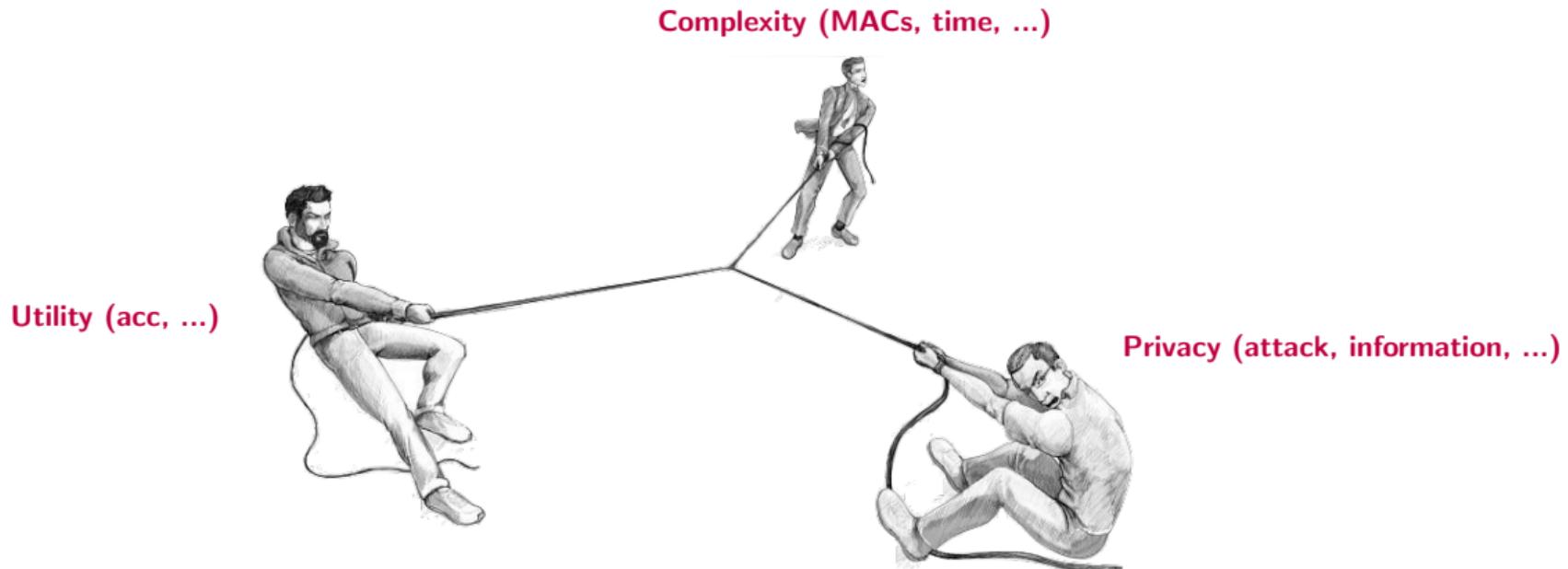
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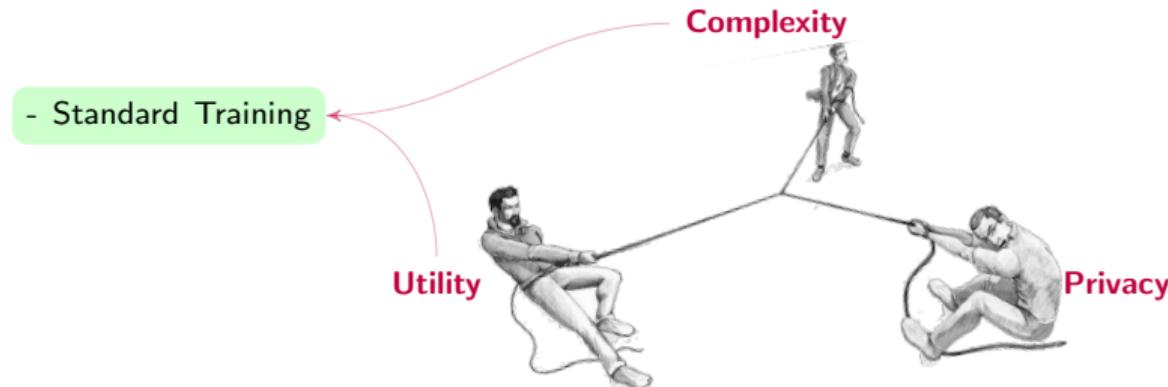
# Privacy Breach in Machine Learning Pipeline



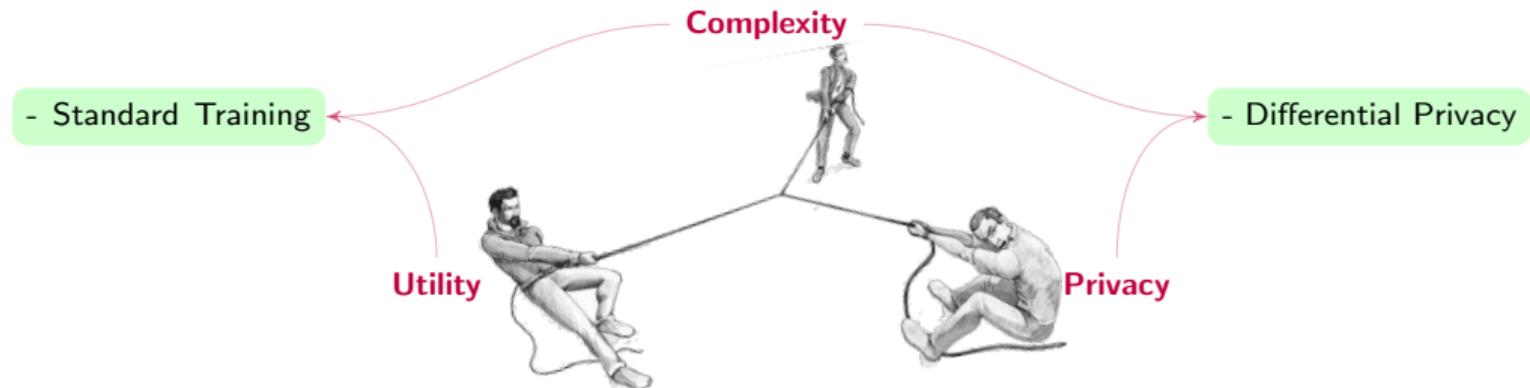
# The Privacy-Utility-Complexity Trilemma



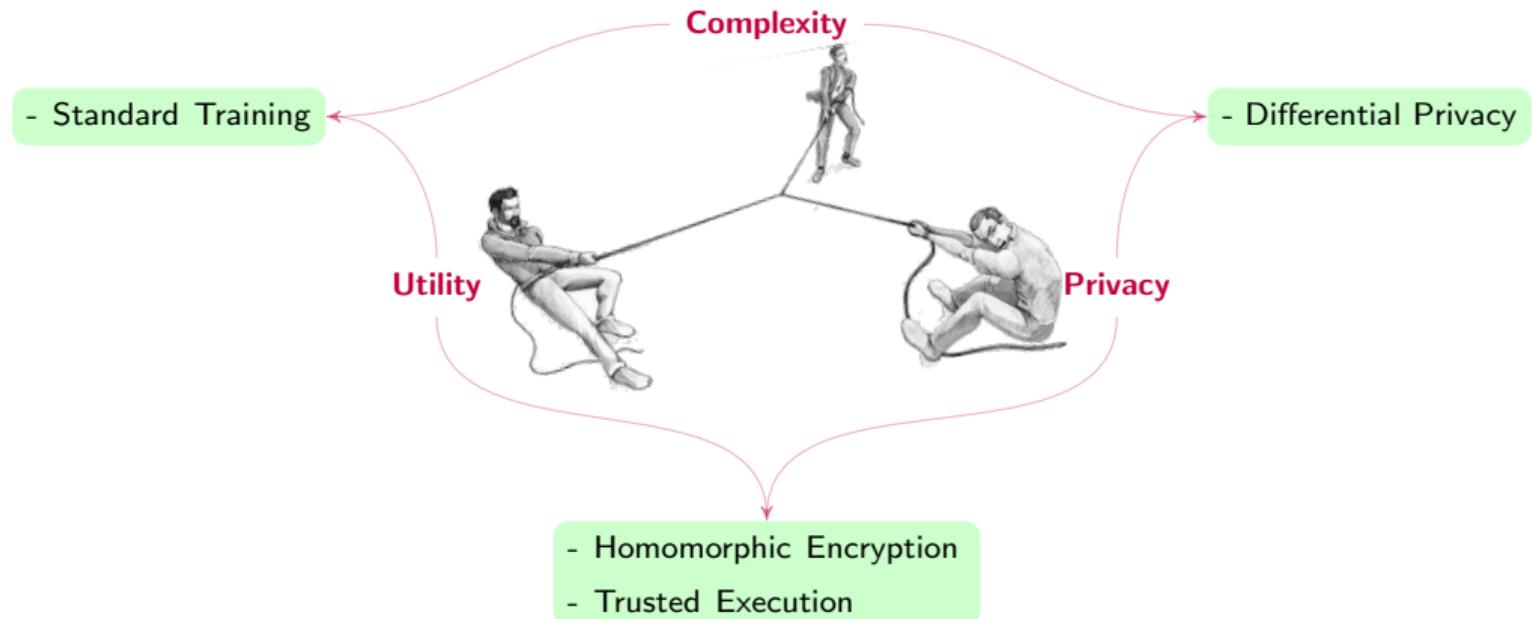
# The Privacy-Utility-Complexity Trilemma



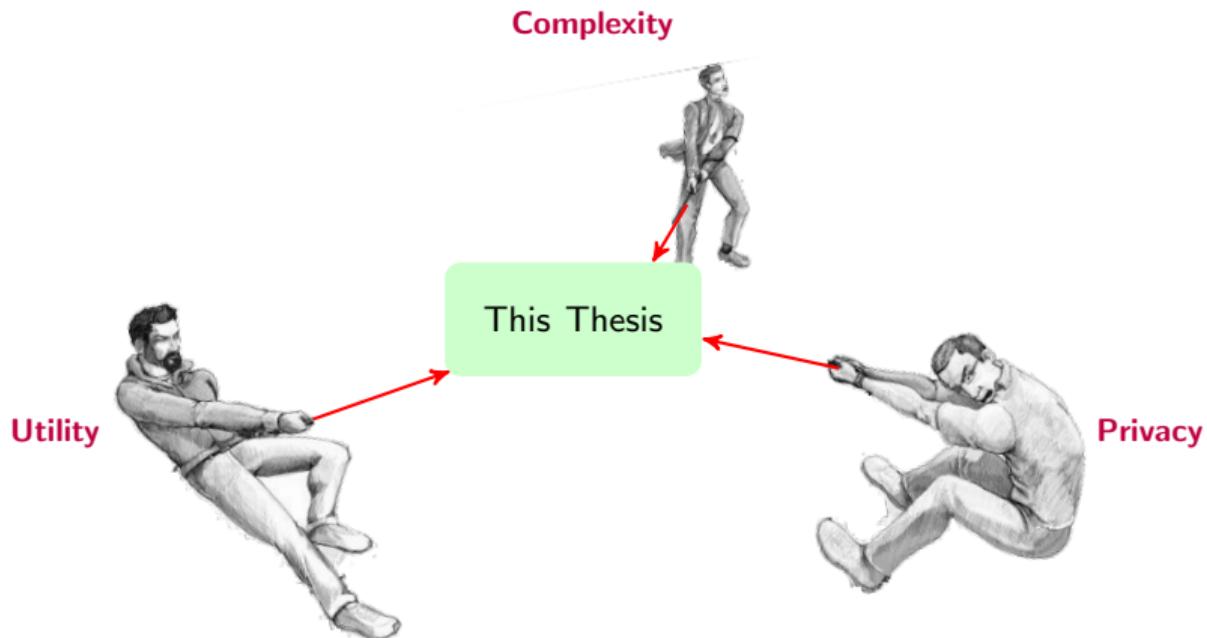
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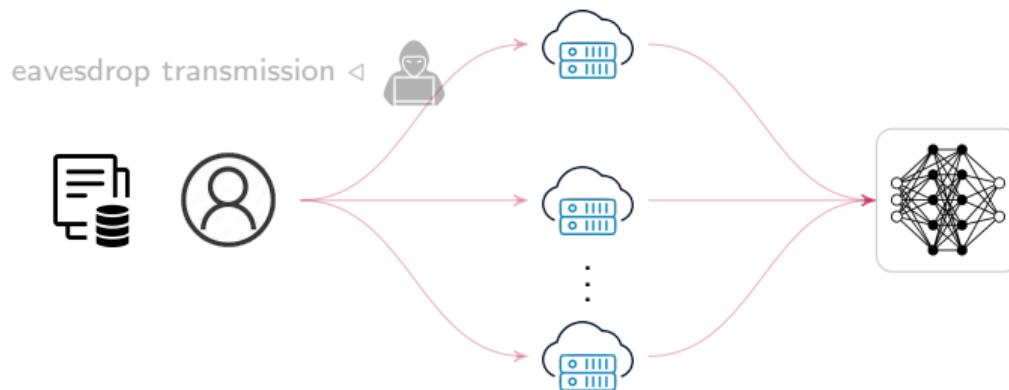


## Background: Data Privacy Breach in Machine Learning

# Data Privacy Breach Overview

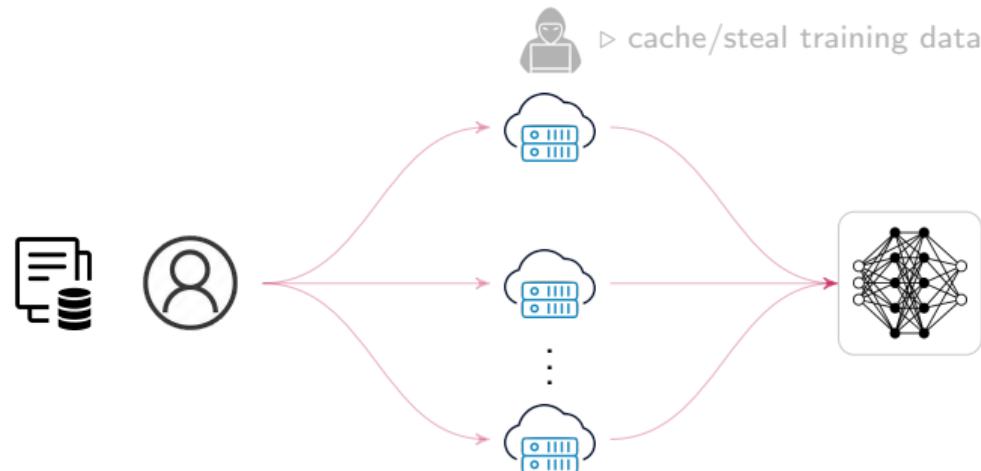


# Data Privacy Breach Overview



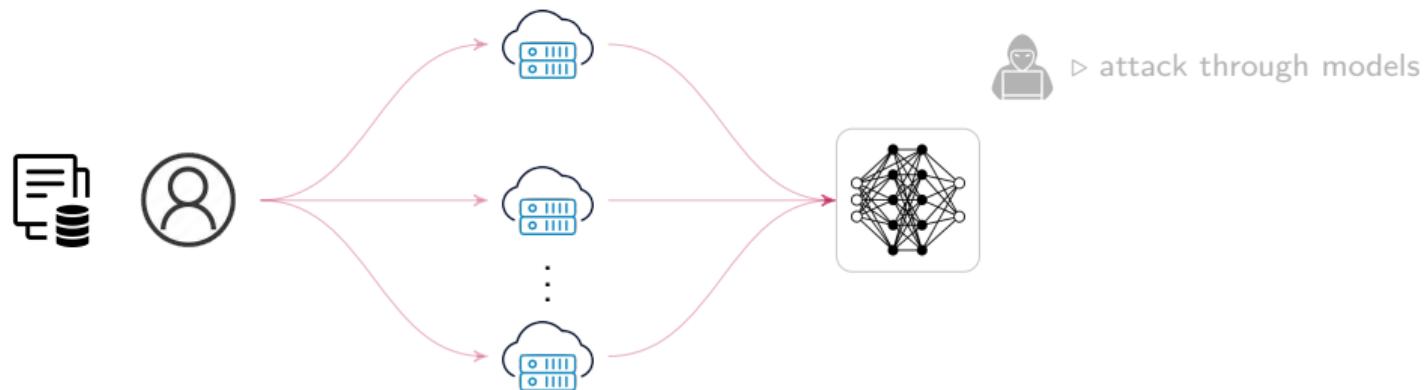
- ▷ Case 1: Attackers obtain private data via unsafe transmission in
  - user-cloud systems
  - distributed systems

# Data Privacy Breach Overview



▷ Case 2: Public cloud servers may cache or steal private data

# Data Privacy Breach Overview

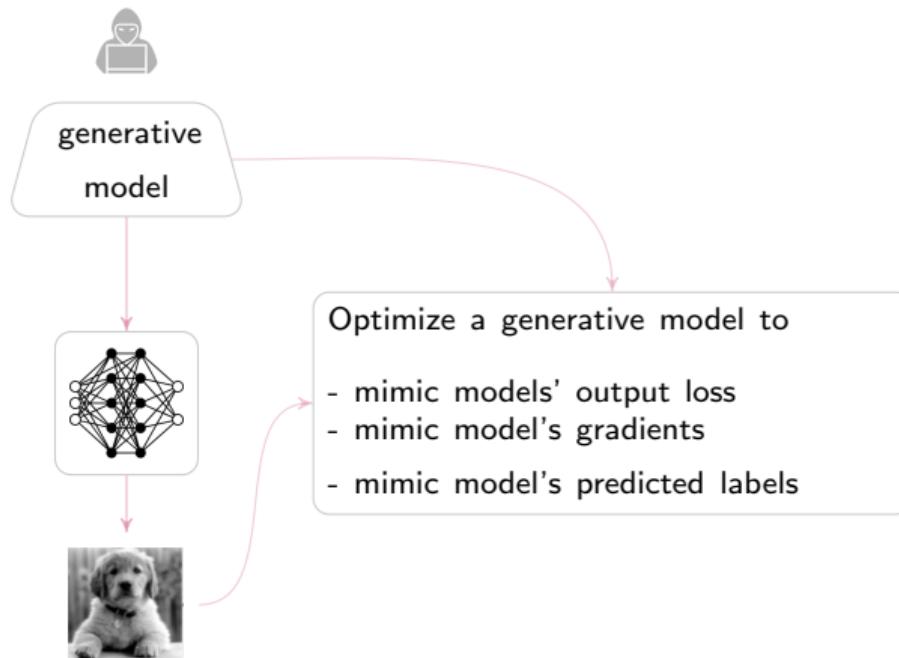


▷ Case 3: Private data can be leaked via models:

- model inversion
- membership inference
- ...

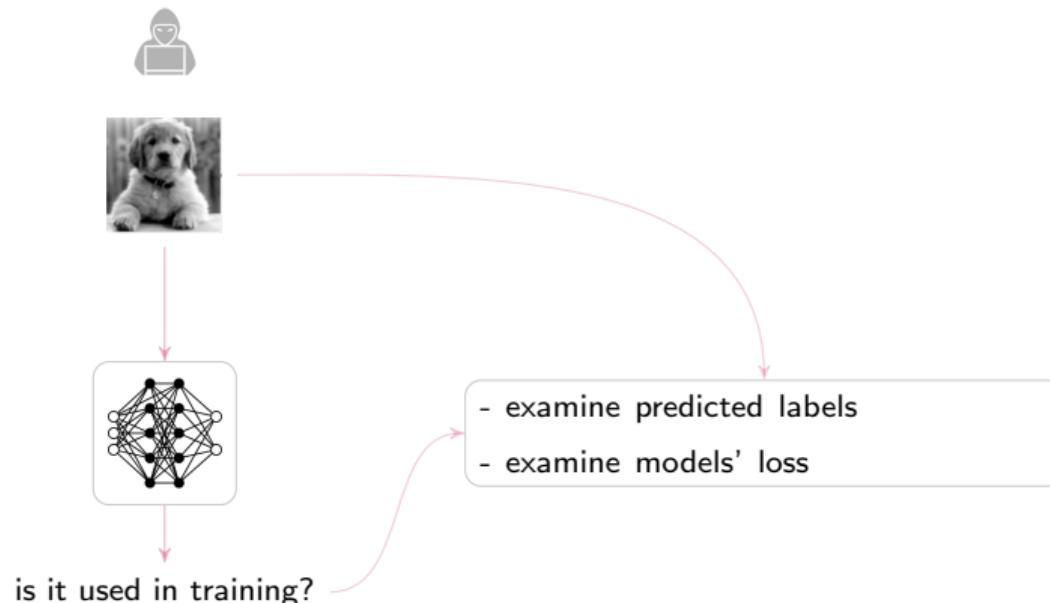
# Data Privacy Breach Overview

## Attack through Models: Model Inversion



# Data Privacy Breach Overview

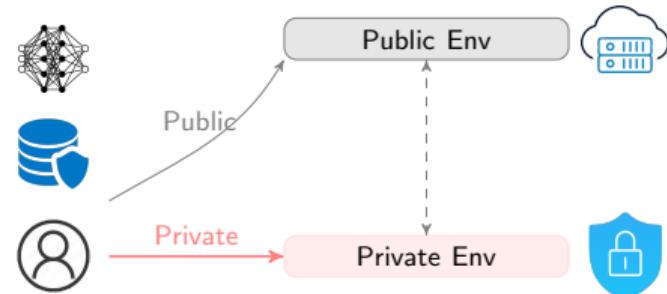
## Attack through Models: Membership Inference





## Target Setup: Learning with Private and Public Environments

# Target Setup

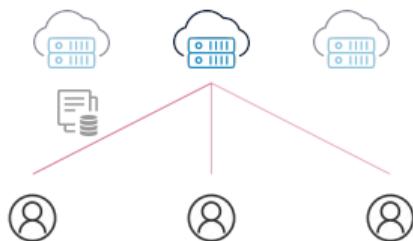


- ▶ Private Env: **strong** privacy guarantee; increasing complexity, less computation efficient
  - ▶ local clients
  - ▶ trusted execution
  - ▶ ...
- ▶ Public Env: **no privacy** guarantee; high computing performance
  - ▶ Cloud GPUs
  - ▶ ...

# Target Setup

## A Generic Setup Seen in Many Scenarios

### Distributed ML



Distribute model and data in distributed systems

- distributed training
- federated learning
- data parallelism
- ...

# Target Setup

## A Generic Setup Seen in Many Scenarios

### Distributed ML



### Split Learning



Split model and data onto multiple platforms

- model splitting
- model parallelism
- ...

# Target Setup

## A Generic Setup Seen in Many Scenarios

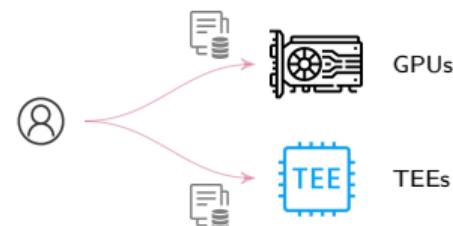
Distributed ML



Split Learning



Trusted Execution



# Target Setup

## The Central Problem To Be Solved

How to leverage both private and public environments to achieve:

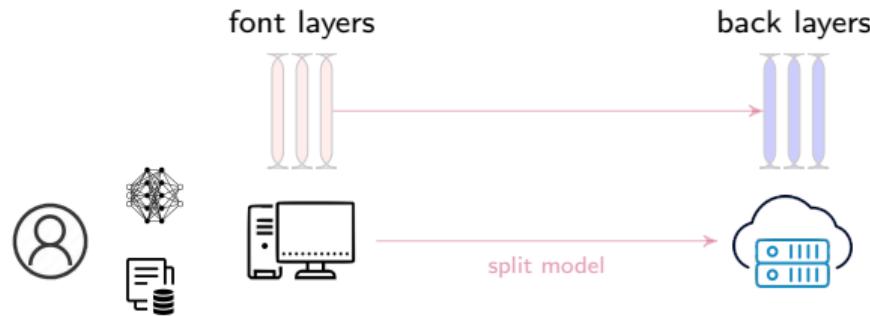
- private training & inference
- high model utility
- fast execution



## Review: Relevant Works

# Relevant Works

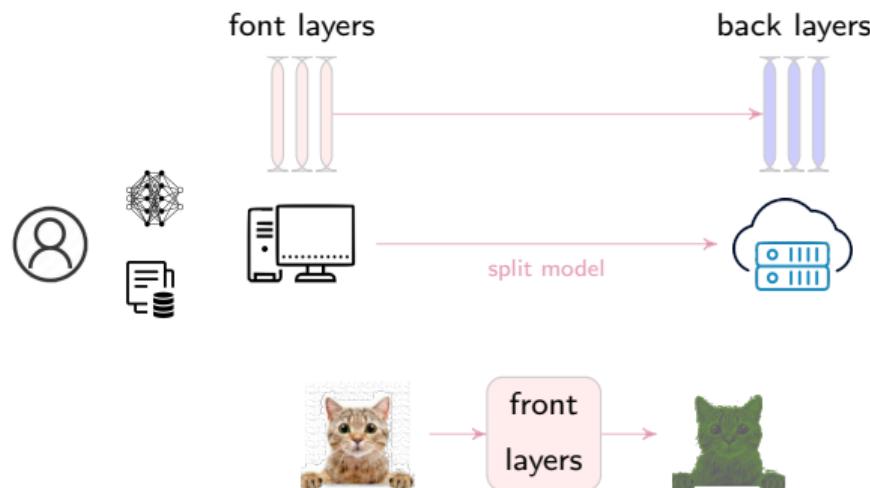
## ▷ Split Learning



- protect raw data in local
- reduce computation from local

# Relevant Works

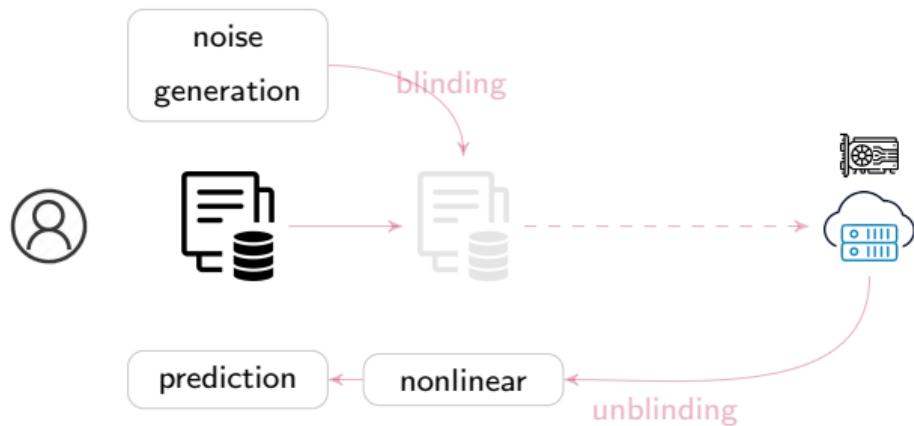
## ▷ Split Learning



- protect raw data in local
- reduce computation from local
  
- not fully private
- not communication efficient
- fail against reconstruction attacks

# Relevant Works

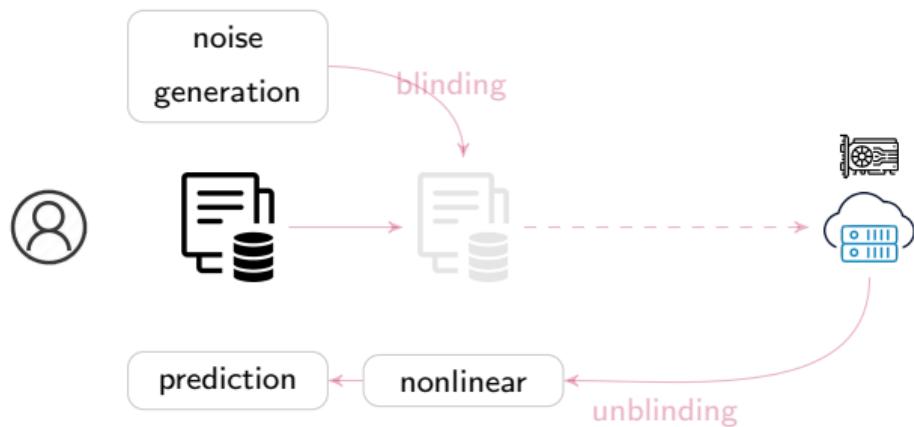
## ▷ Data Blinding



- offload complex ops
- fully private in cloud

# Relevant Works

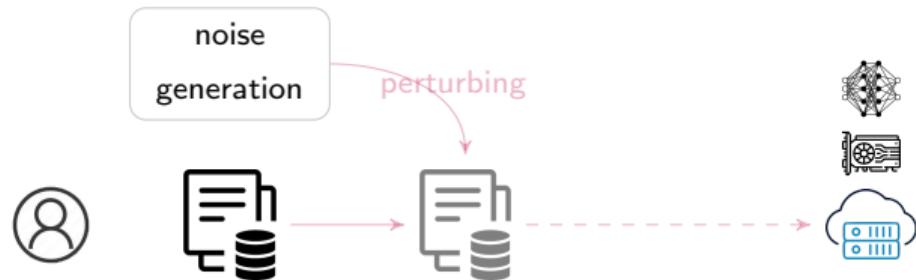
## ▷ Data Blinding



- offload complex ops
- fully private in cloud
- only for model inference
- heavy layerwise communication

# Relevant Works

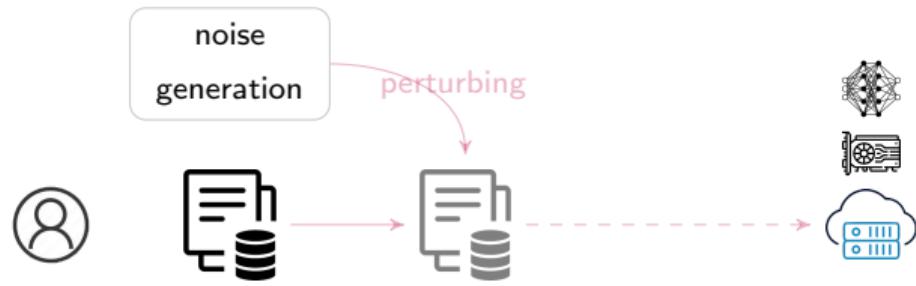
## ▷ Data Obfuscation



- completely offload computation
- no need for local computation

# Relevant Works

## ▷ Data Obfuscation



- completely offload computation
- no need for local computation
- degraded model utility
- not fully private

## The Key Argument in This Thesis:

Protecting **data** in private ML must be based on **data**,  
and **content-aware**.

## ■ This Thesis

- Asymmetric Structure in Data (PETS'22)
- 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition (PETS'22)
- Theoretical Foundations (PETS'22)
- Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow(CVPR'24)

## Asymmetric Structure in Data

## ► Data in ML



## Asymmetric Structure in Data

## ► Data in ML

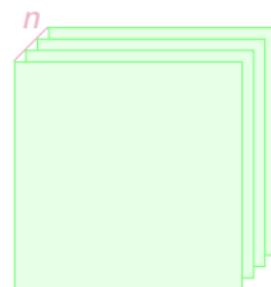


# Data Representations Are Redundant!!!

# Asymmetric Structure in Data

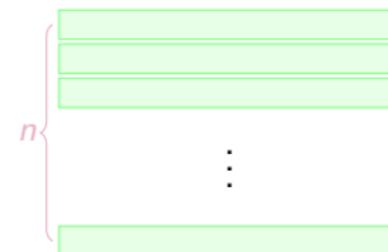
## ▷ Data Representation

image



Tensor:  $n \times h \times w$

text



Tensor:  $n \times l$

# Asymmetric Structure in Data

## ▷ Redundancy Analysis

For data  $X \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times k}$ , obtain singular values as

$$X \xrightarrow{SVD} U \cdot \text{diag}(s) \cdot V^*$$

### SVD-Entropy (PETS'22)

$$\mu_X = -\log \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{s}_j^2 \right)$$

$$\bar{s}_j = \frac{s_j}{\sum_{i=1}^n s_i}$$

# Asymmetric Structure in Data

## ▷ Redundancy Analysis

### Sufficiency (PETS'22)

$r = \lceil 2^{\mu_X} \rceil$  denote the number of components that *sufficiently* approximate  $X$ :

$$\frac{\sum_{j=1}^r s_j^2}{\sum_{j=1}^n s_j^2} \geq .97.$$

# Asymmetric Structure in Data

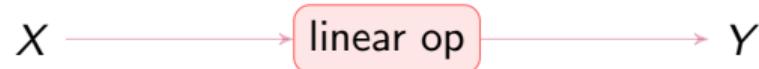
## ▷ Redundancy Analysis



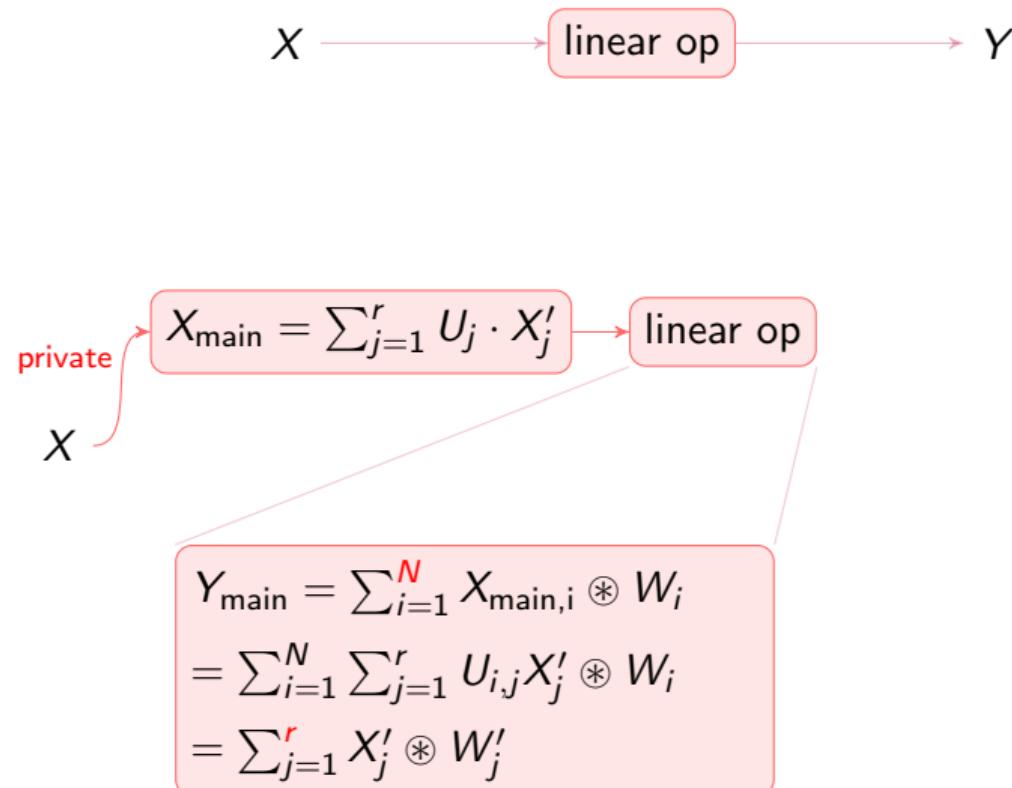
$\xrightarrow{\text{SVD}}$  s: [0.94, 0.05, 0.007]  $\rightarrow \mu = 0.17 \xrightarrow{r = 2}$



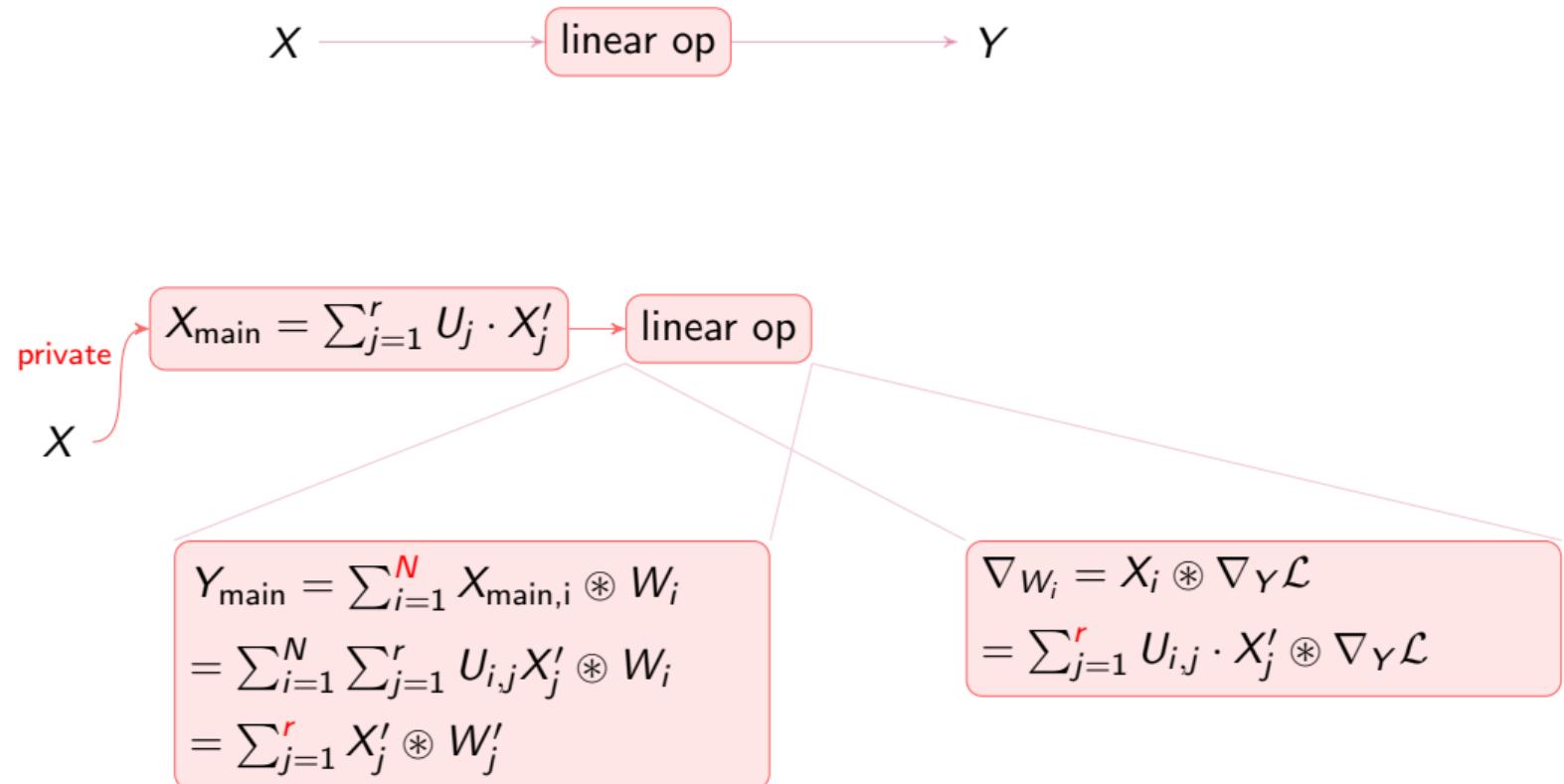
# 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition



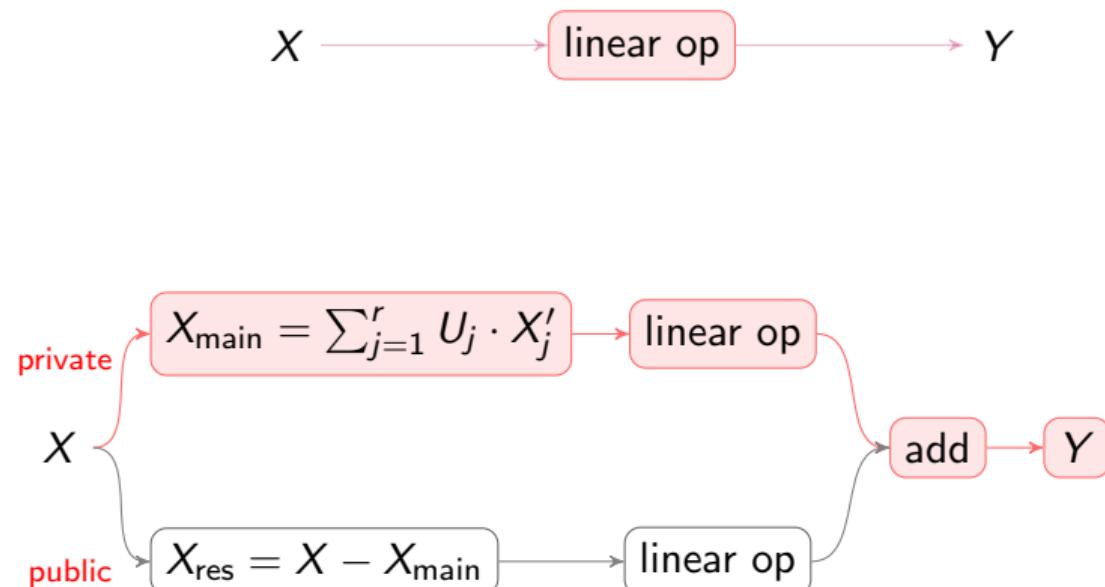
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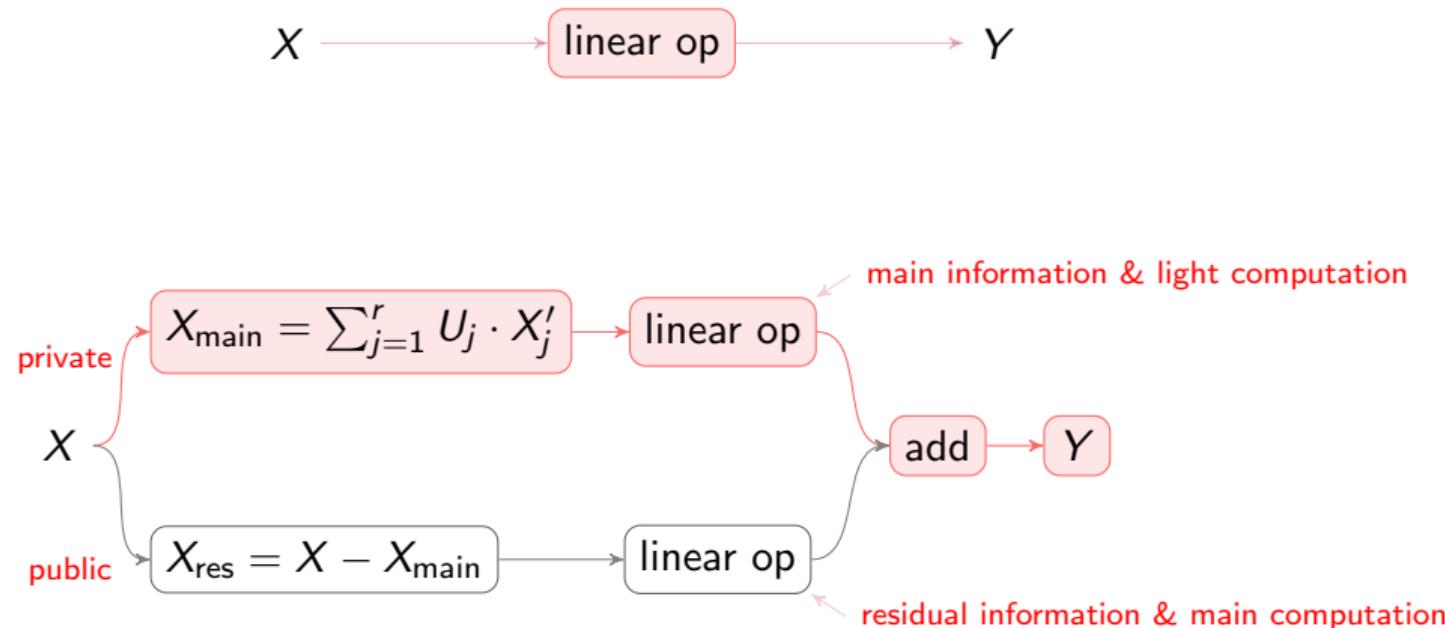
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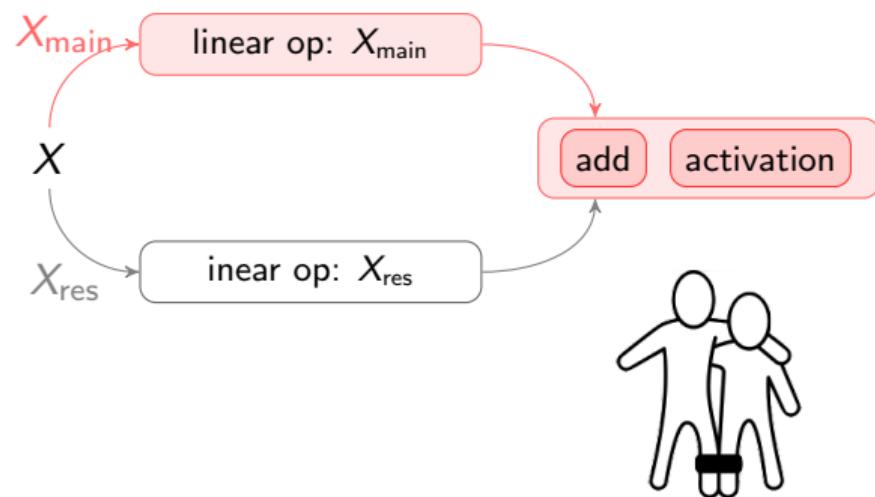


# 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition



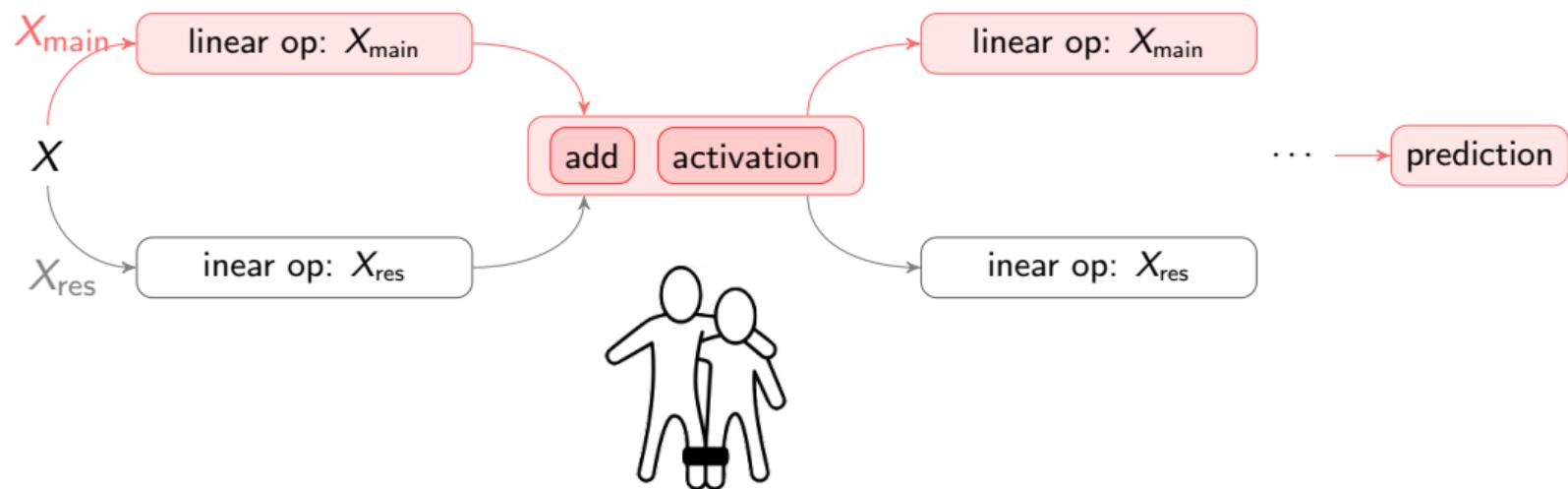
# 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition

## ▷ Complete Flow

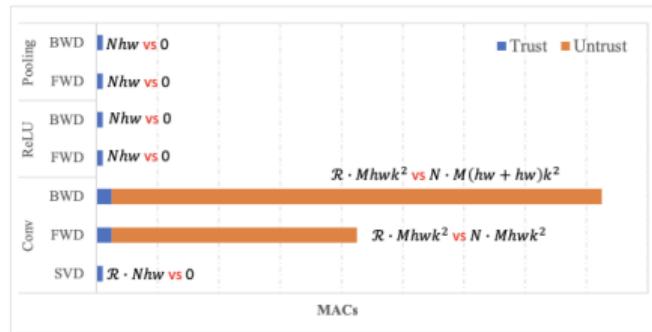


# 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition

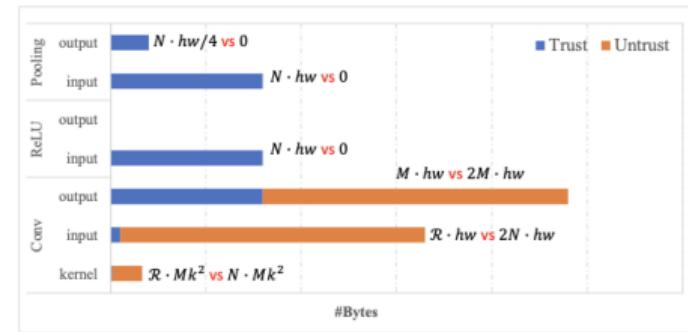
## ▷ Complete Flow



# 3LegRace: Layer-Wise Asymmetric Data Decomposition



Computation Complexity



Memory Complexity

# Theoretical Foundations

## Low-Rank Structure Is Preserved in Models

### Low-Rank Structure in a $1 \times 1$ Conv Layer (PETS'22)

Given input  $X \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times h \times w}$  with SVD-entropy  $\mu_X$ , and kernel  $W \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n \times 1 \times 1}$ , the SVD-entropy of the output is upper-bounded by:

$$\mu_Y \leq \log(\lceil 2^{\mu_X} \rceil).$$

## Low-Rank Structure Is Preserved in Models

### Low-Rank Structure in a $k \times k$ Conv Layer (PETS'22)

Given input  $X \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times h \times w}$  with SVD-entropy  $\mu_X$ , and kernel  $W \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n \times k \times k}$ , the SVD-entropy of the output is upper-bounded by:

$$\mu_Y \leq \log \left( \sum_{j=1}^r \lceil 2^{\mu_j} \rceil \right) \cong \mu_X + c(k).$$

## Low-Rank Structure Is Preserved in Models

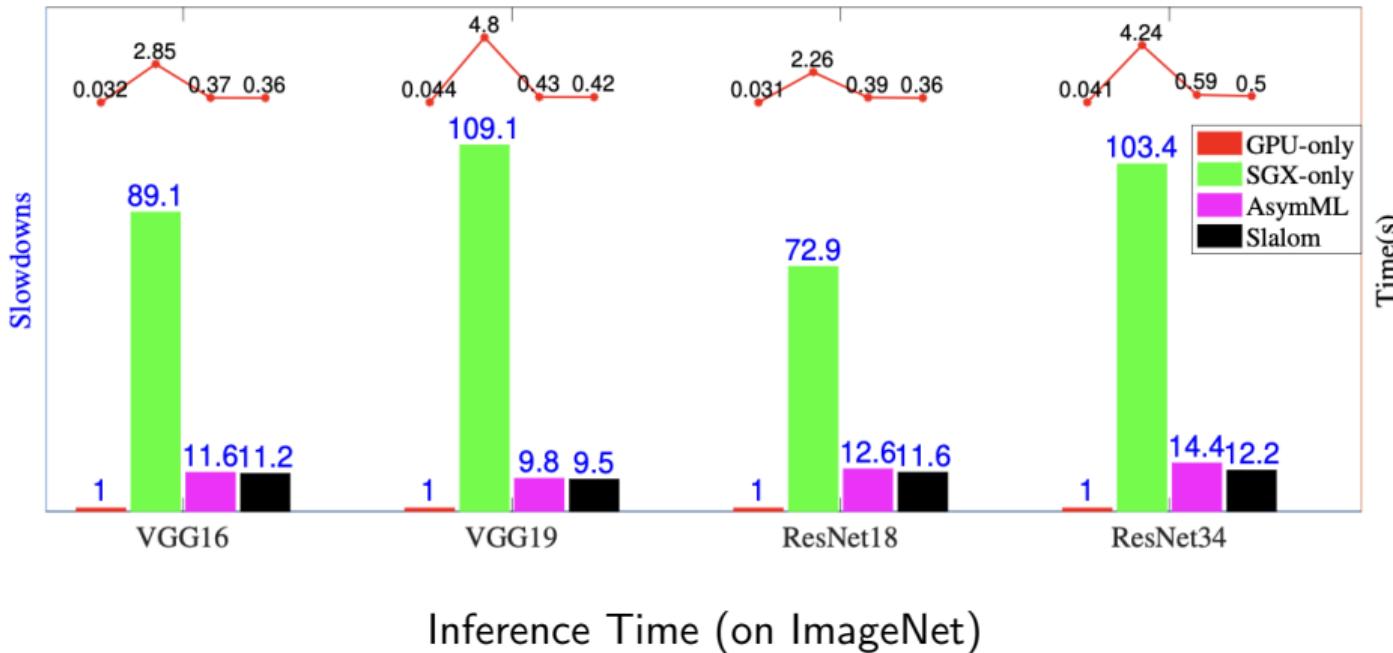
### Low-Rank Structure in a Batch Norm Layer (PETS'22)

Given input  $X \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times h \times w}$  with SVD-entropy  $\mu_X$ , the SVD-entropy of the output is upper-bounded by:

$$\mu_Y \leq \log (\lceil 2^{\mu_X} \rceil + 1).$$

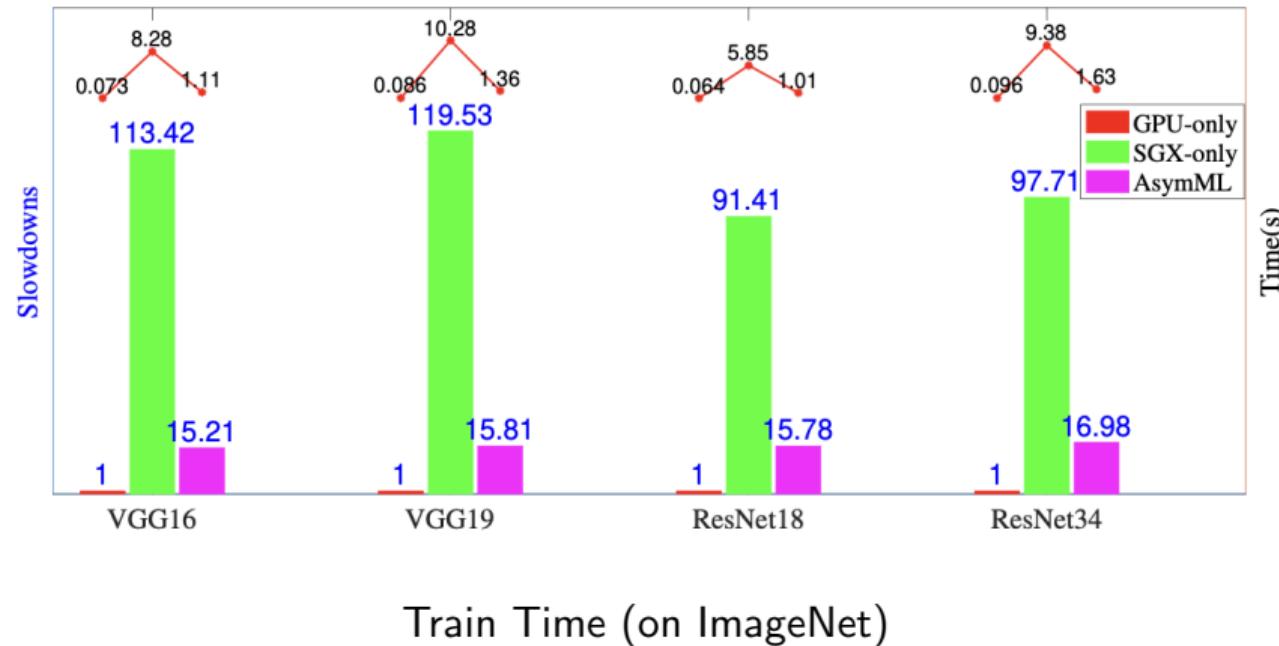
# Performance

## ▷ Performance



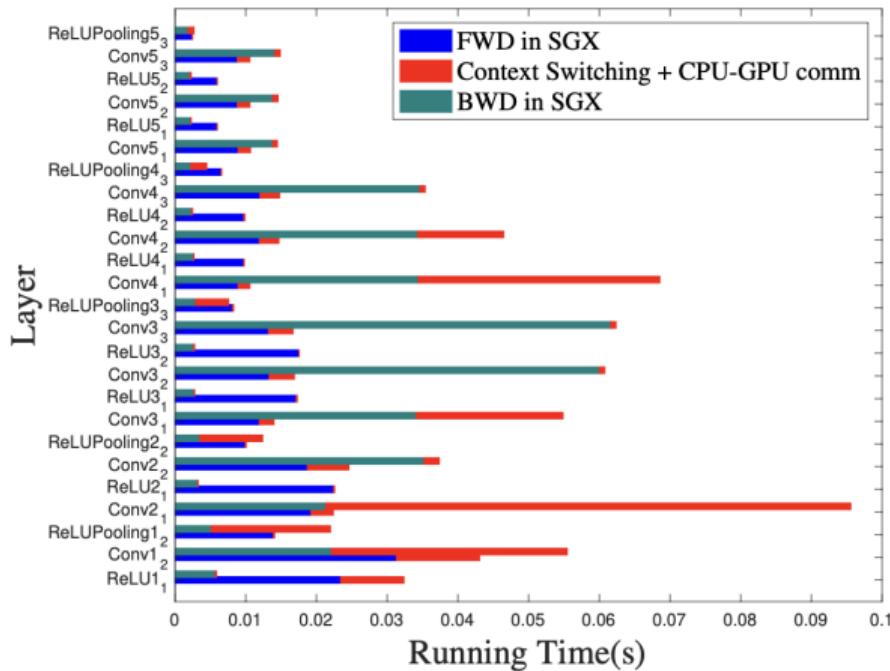
# Performance

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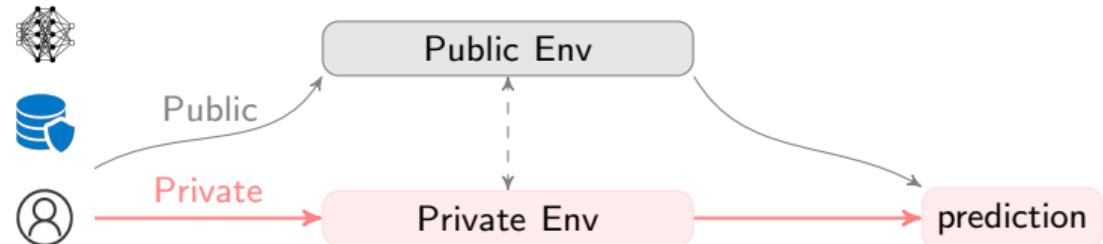


Time Breakdowns  
(on VGG16)

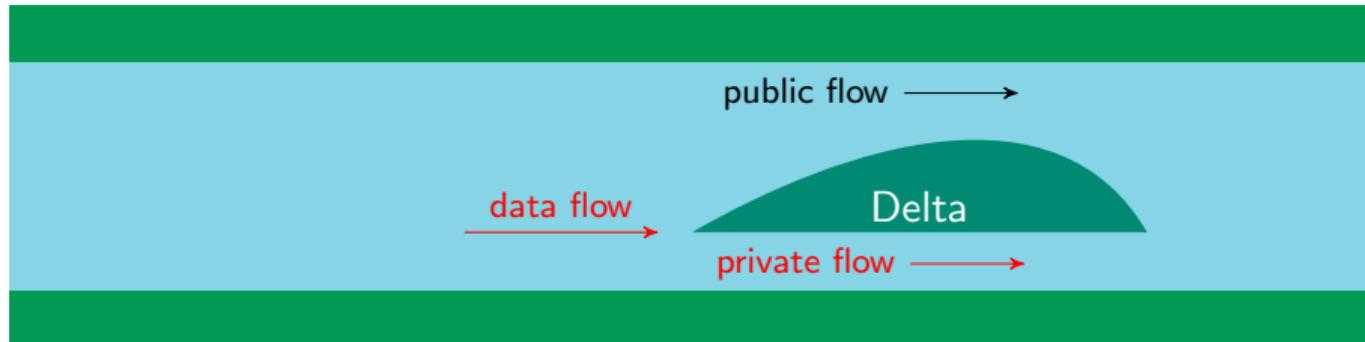
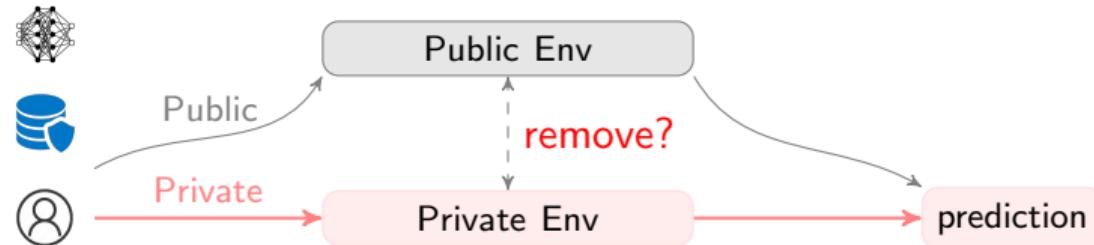
## Still Not Good Enough:

- Heavy layer-wise communication
- Formal privacy guarantee in public environments

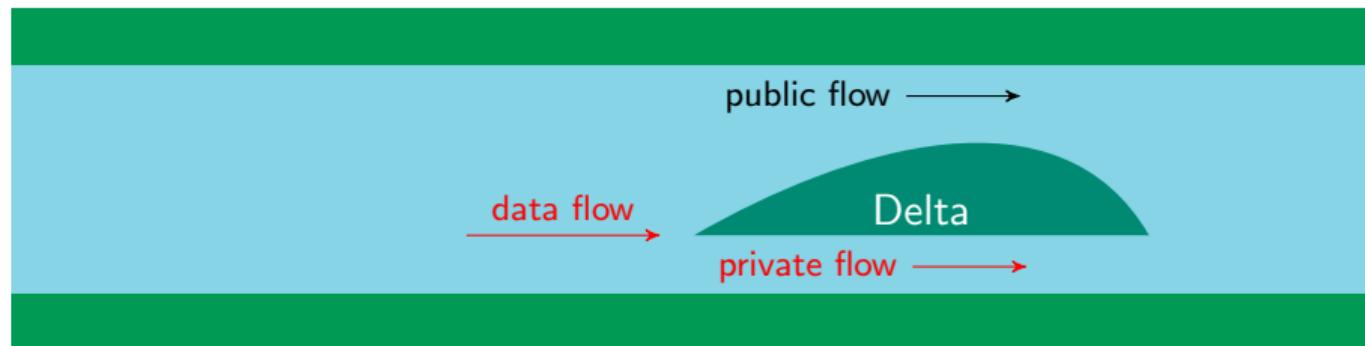
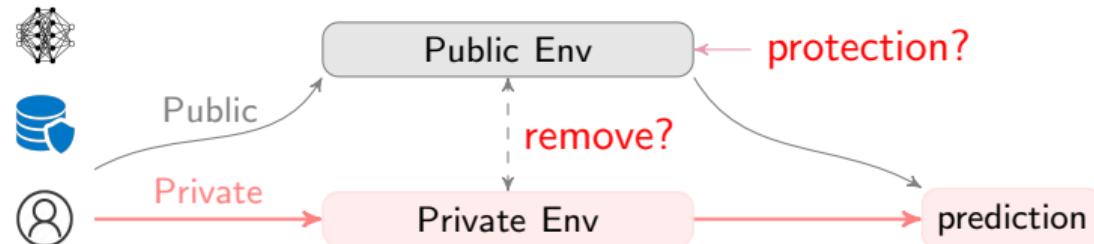
# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow



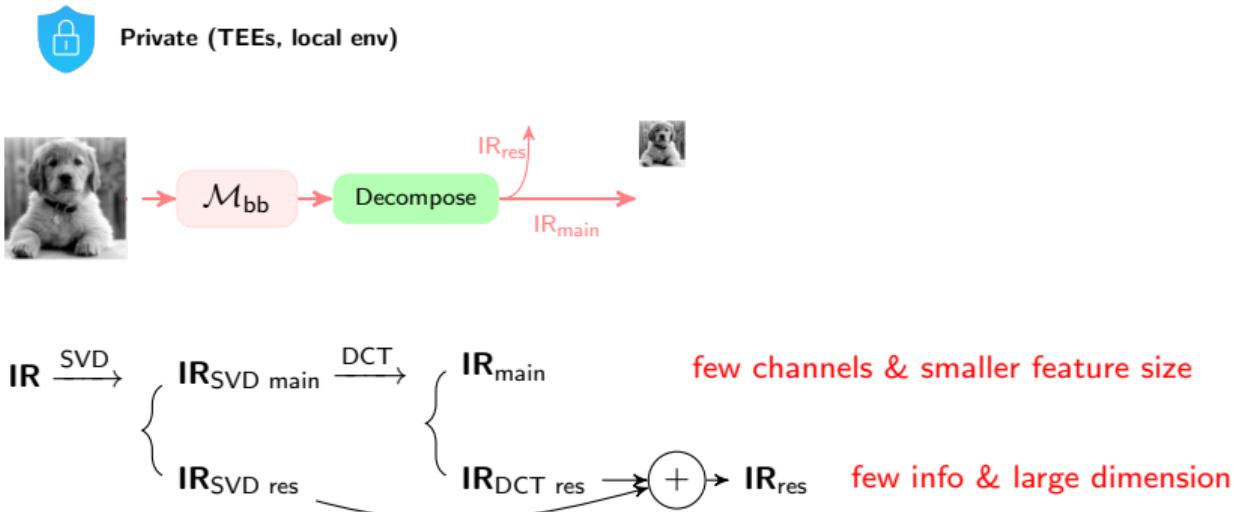
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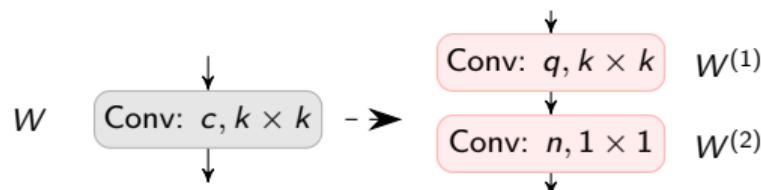
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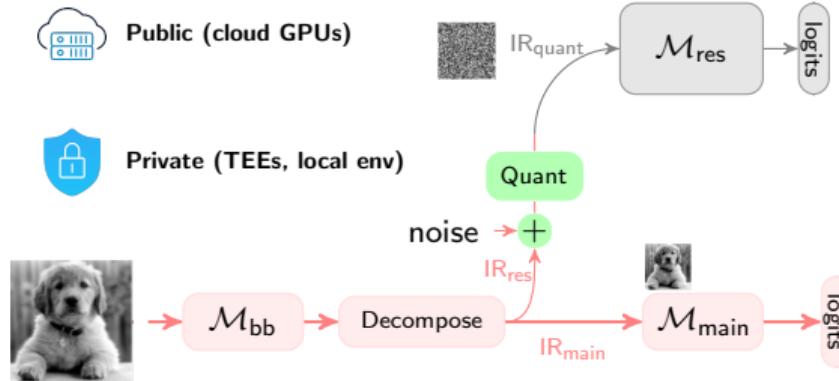


Private (TEEs, local env)



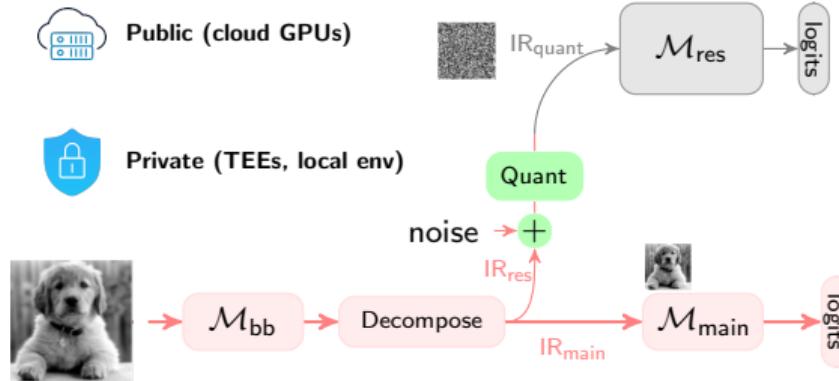
**Theorem:** By optimizing  $W^1, W^2$ , then  
 $\min_{W^1, W^2} \|\text{Op}(W, X) - \text{Op}(W^1, W^2, X)\| = 0$

# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow



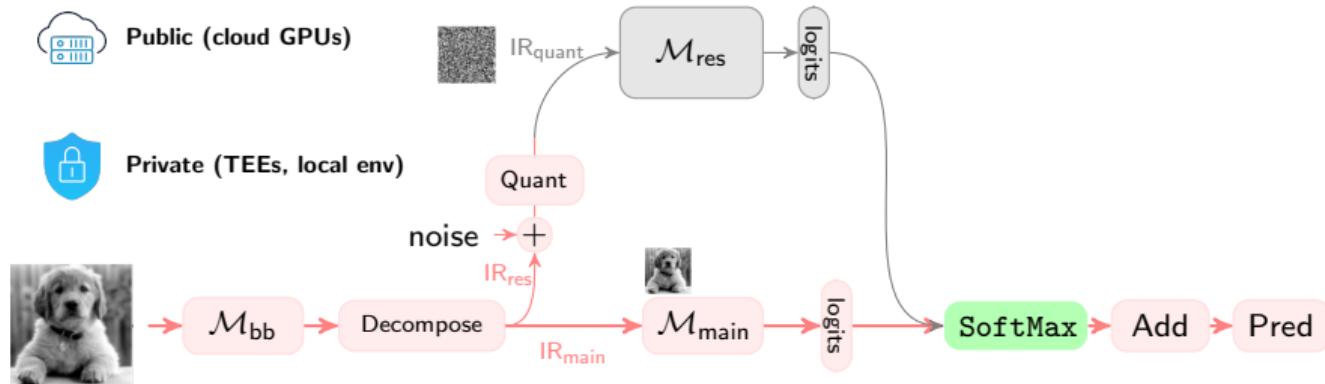
$$\text{IR}_{\text{quant}}(\cdot) = \text{BinQuant}(\text{IR}_{\text{noisy}}(\cdot)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{IR}_{\text{noisy}}(\cdot) < 0 \\ 1 & \text{IR}_{\text{noisy}}(\cdot) \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow



**Theorem:** Delta ensures that the perturbed residuals and operations in the public environment satisfy  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP given noise  $\mathcal{N}(0, 2C^2 \cdot \log(2/\delta')/\epsilon')$  given sampling probability  $p$ , and  $\epsilon = \log(1 + p(e^{\epsilon'} - 1))$ ,  $\delta = p\delta'$ .

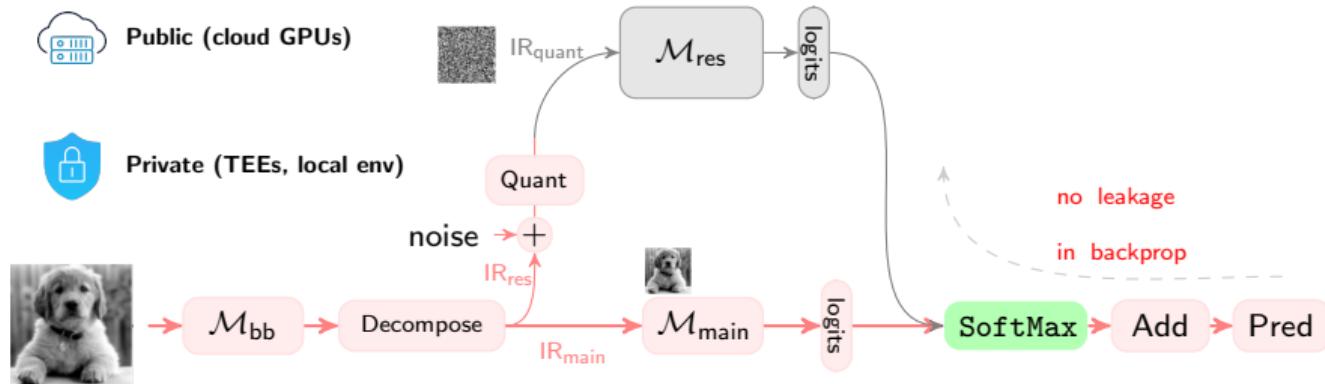
# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow



$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{main}} : \mathbf{o}_{\text{tot}}(i) = \frac{e^{z_{\text{main}}(i)+z_{\text{res}}(i)}}{\sum_{j=1} e^{z_{\text{main}}(j)+z_{\text{res}}(j)}} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, L$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{res}} : \mathbf{o}_{\text{res}}(i) = \frac{e^{z_{\text{res}}(i)}}{\sum_{j=1} e^{z_{\text{res}}(j)}} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, L,$$

# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

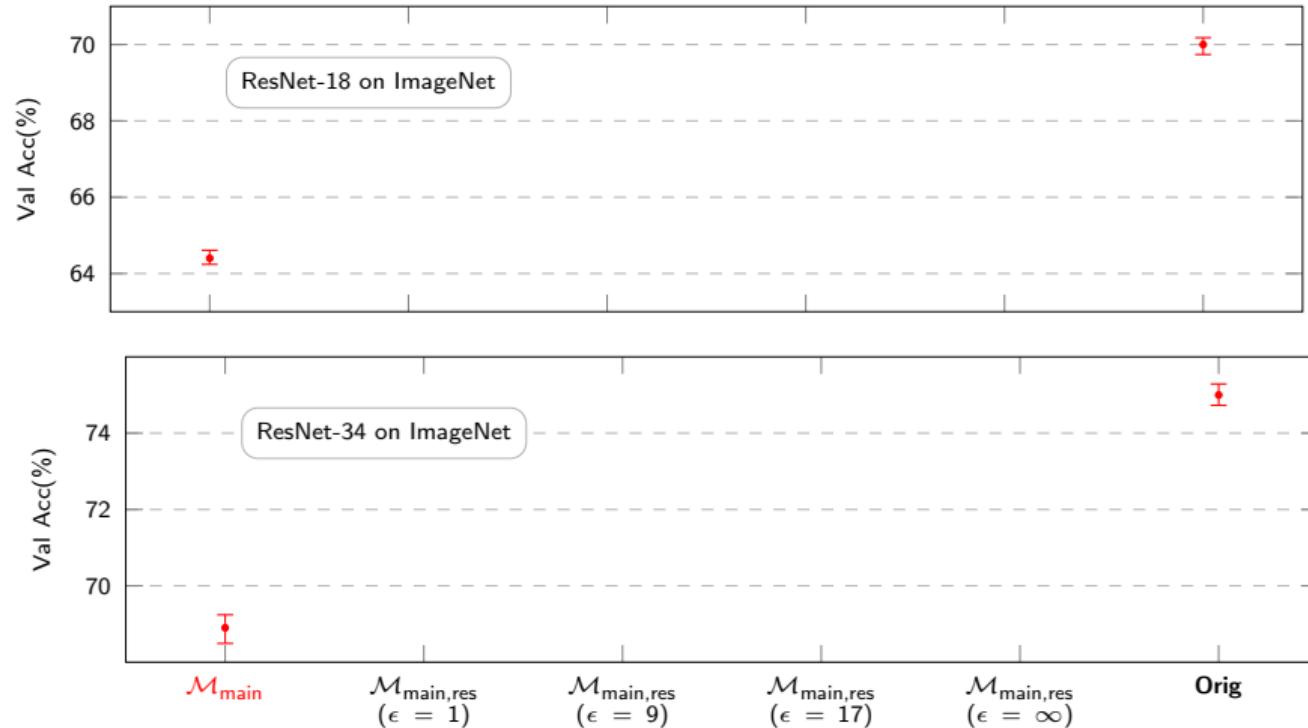


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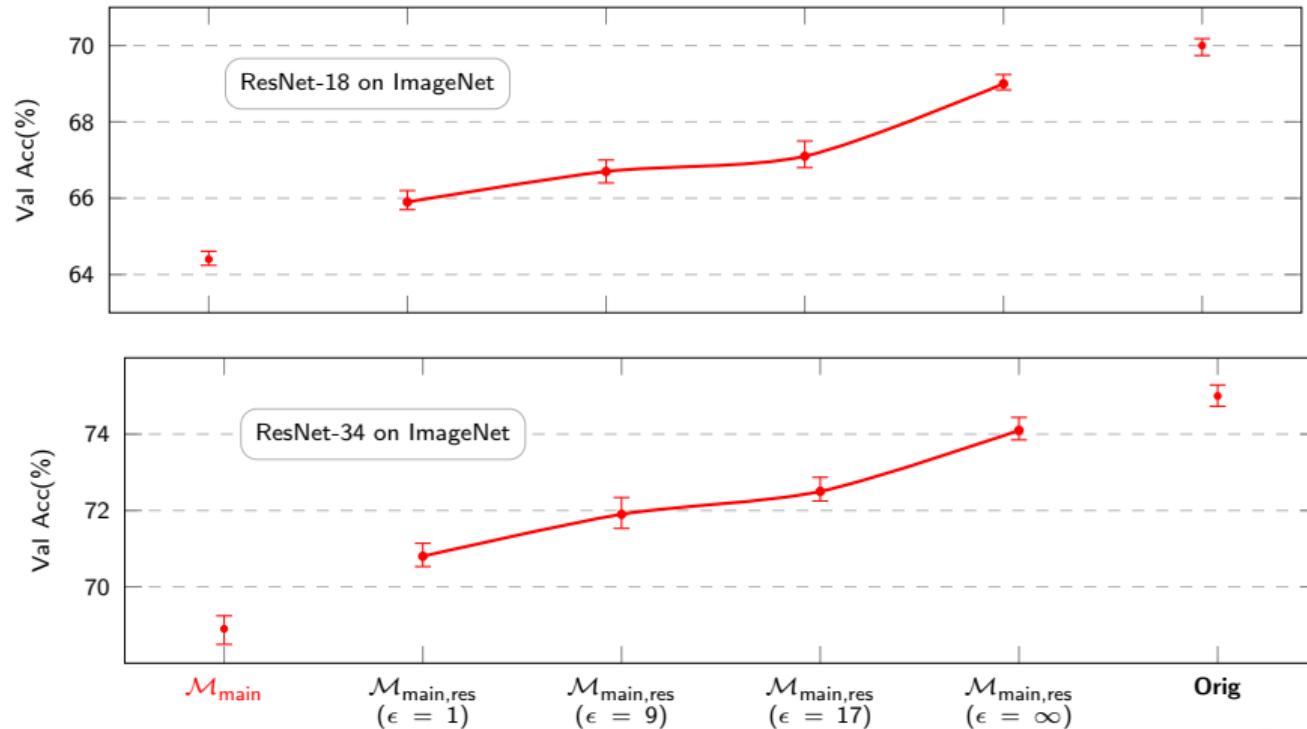
# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Utility



# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Utility



# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Utility

	Delta: perturb IR <sub>res</sub>	naive-DP: perturb IR
CIFAR-10	92.4%	69.6% ( $\downarrow$ <b>-22.8</b> )
CIFAR-100	71.4%	48.3% ( $\downarrow$ <b>-23.1</b> )
ImageNet	65.9%	34.4% ( $\downarrow$ <b>-31.5</b> )

# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Complexity

MACs of the modules in Delta

	$\mathcal{M}_{\text{bb}} + \mathcal{M}_{\text{main}}$	SVD	DCT	$\mathcal{M}_{\text{res}}$
ResNet-18	48.3 M	0.52 M	0.26 M	547M
ResNet-34	437 M	1.6 M	0.7 M	3.5G

# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Complexity

MACs of the modules in Delta

	$\mathcal{M}_{\text{bb}} + \mathcal{M}_{\text{main}}$	SVD	DCT	$\mathcal{M}_{\text{res}}$
ResNet-18	48.3 M	0.52 M	0.26 M	547M
ResNet-34	437 M	1.6 M	0.7 M	3.5G

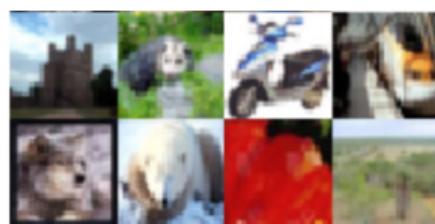
Running time with one single input

	Priv-only	3LegRace	Delta
Train (ms/speedup)	1372	237 (6×)	62 (22×)
Inference (ms/speedup)	510	95 (5×)	20 (25×)

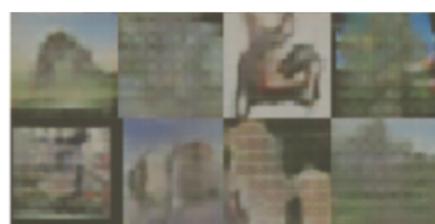
# Delta: ML with Fully Asymmetric Data Flow

## ▷ Experiment Highlights: Privacy Protection

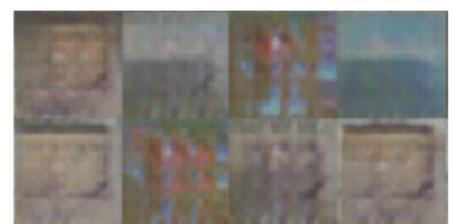
Against model inversion attack with ResNet-18 [SecretRevealer, CVPR'20]



Original samples



Reconstruction (no noise)



Reconstruction ( $\epsilon = 1$ )

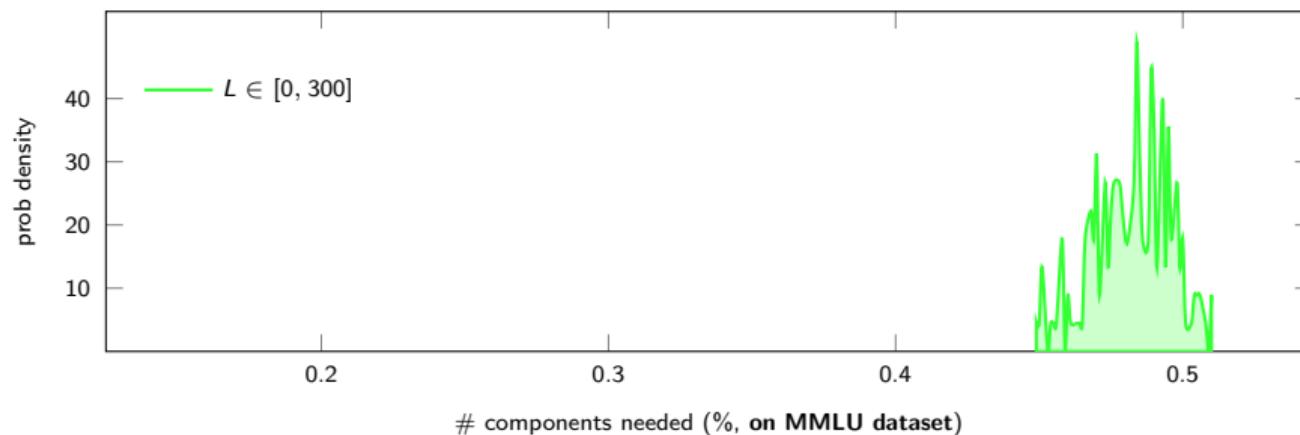


## Discussion of Future Works

# Potential in Language Models

Internal activations exhibit highly low-rank structure [arXiv'24]

low-rank approximation:  $X \xrightarrow{SVD} X_{lr} = U(:, 1:r) \cdot S(1:r, 1:r) \cdot V(1:r, :)$

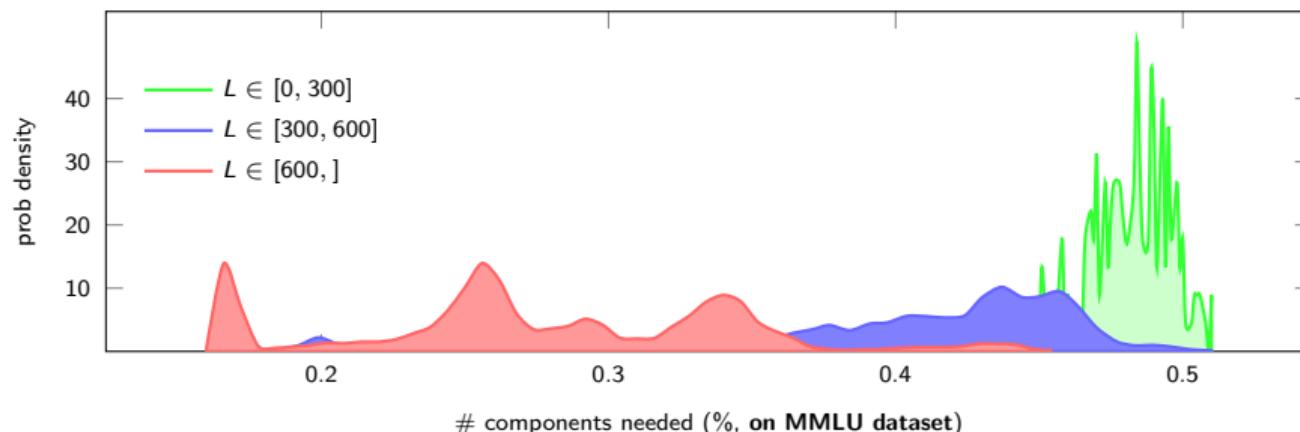


- ▶ input sequences can be approximated w. a few principal components

# Potential in Language Models

Internal activations exhibit highly low-rank structure [arXiv'24]

$$\text{low-rank approximation: } X \xrightarrow{\text{SVD}} X_{lr} = U(:, 1:r) \cdot S(1:r, 1:r) \cdot V(1:r, :)$$



- ▶ input sequences can be approximated w. a few principal components
- ▶ long sequences exhibit more low-rank structure

# Potential in Language Models

## An example ...

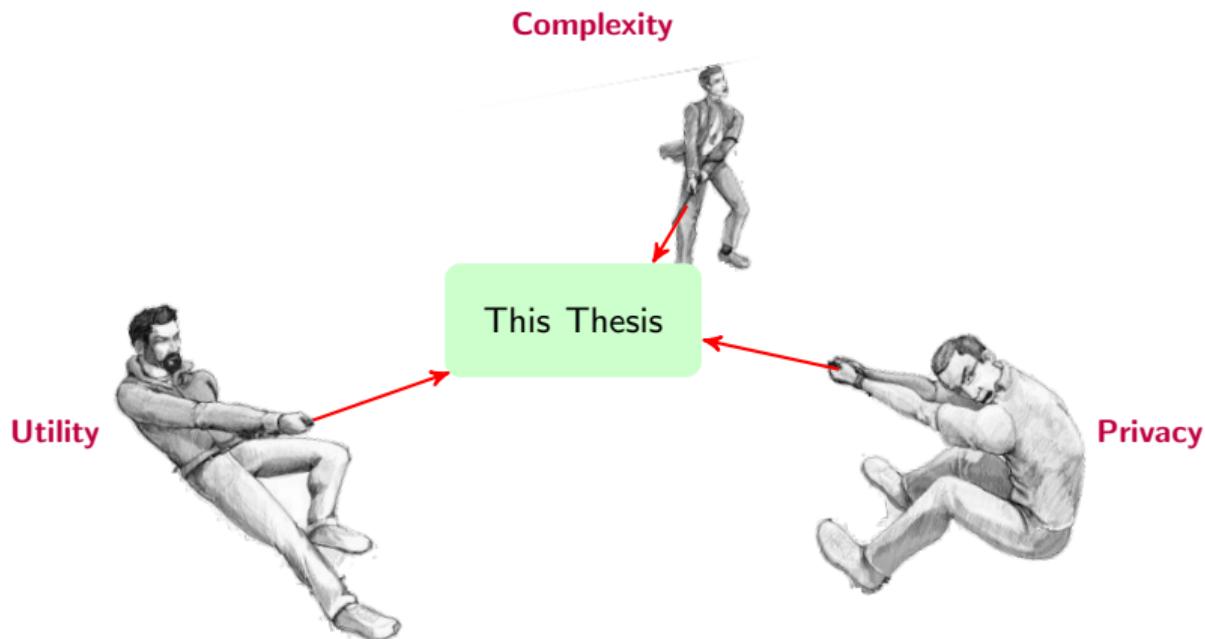
Large Language Models are foundational machine learning models that use deep learning algorithms to process and understand natural language. These models are trained on massive amounts of text data to learn patterns and entity relationships in the language. Large Language Models can perform many types of language tasks, such as translating languages, analyzing sentiments, chatbot conversations, and more. They can understand complex textual data, identify entities and relationships between them, and generate new text that **is** coherent and grammatically accurate.

(a) Original text

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(b) approximated text with 20% principal vectors from Word2Vec.

# Conclude: The Privacy-Utility-Complexity Trilemma



# Thank You All



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