



list

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Practical Multi-Key Homomorphic Encryption for Federated Average Aggregation

*2nd Workshop on Principles of Distributed Learning (PODL'23)
co-located with the International Symposium on Distributed Computing DISC'23
Friday, 13 October 2023*

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Outline


- Introduction
- HE for Secure Aggregation
- Undressing HE
- What's under the clothes
- Some outfit comparisons
- Conclusions



Introduction

A little bit about Federated Learning and its problems

A toy example and some privacy risks

- Initially proposed to avoid moving the training data out
 - reducing communication costs and “*ensuring data privacy.*”
- Some example attacks:
 - Is  in the database of a particular hospital?
 - Can we reconstruct attributes of the people in the database?

$$\text{Risk}_1 = 3 \cdot \text{Age} + 1 \cdot \text{Weight}$$

$$\text{Risk}_2 = 4 \cdot \text{Age} + 0.5 \cdot \text{Weight}$$

$$\text{Risk}_3 = 2 \cdot \text{Age} + 1.5 \cdot \text{Weight}$$

$$\text{Risk}_{\text{Agg}} = 3 \cdot \text{Age} + 1 \cdot \text{Weight}$$

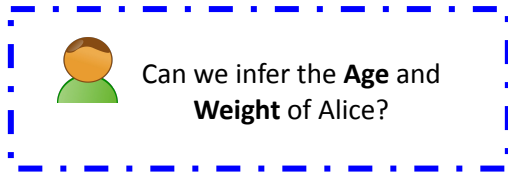
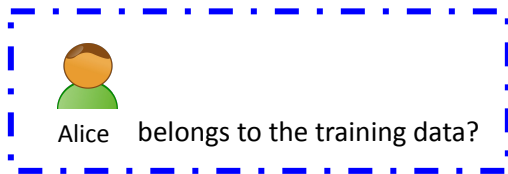


The aggregator is the most dangerous party!

A toy example and some privacy risks

- Some example attacks:

This figure has been made using images from www.flaticon.com and www.stockio.com.

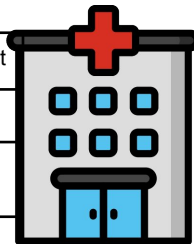


$$\text{Risk}_1 = 3 \cdot \text{Age} + 1 \cdot \text{Weight}$$

First Local Model



Patient	Age	Weight
Maria	43	56
⋮	⋮	⋮
Alice	46	73



Training Data



MEMBERSHIP INFERENCE: TELL ME WHO YOU GO WITH, AND
I'LL TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE

- **Membership inference:**

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/age>

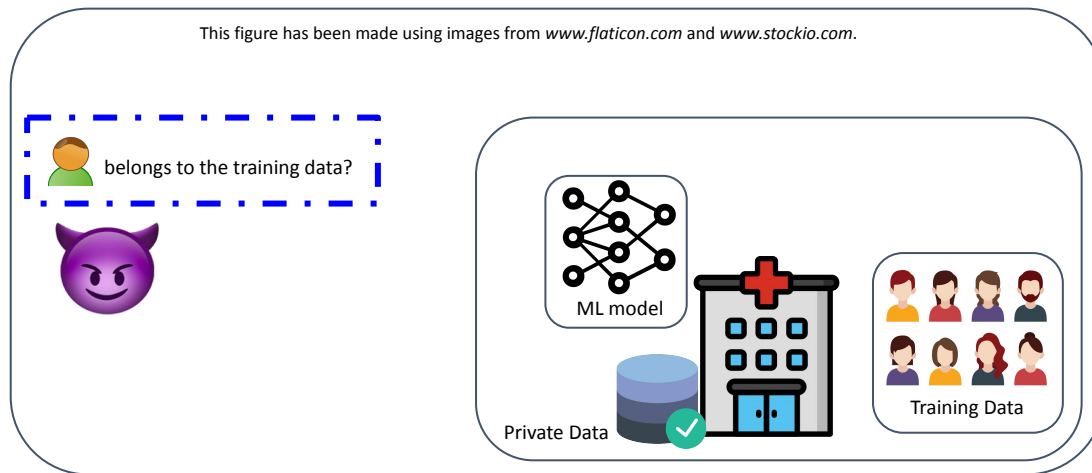
- General cancer risk  : 350 per 100000 people (aged 45 - 49)

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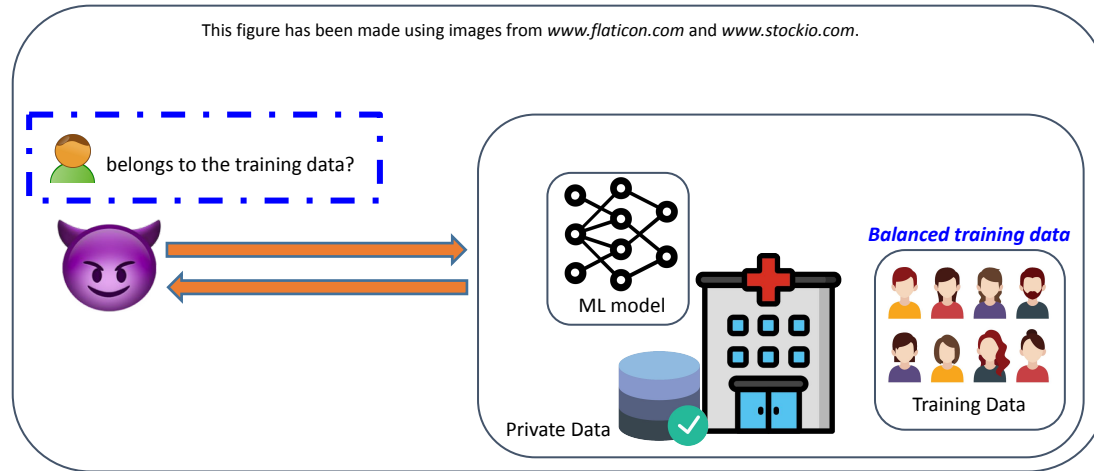


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● Membership inference:

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/age>

- General cancer risk 🧑 : 350 per 100000 people (aged 45 - 49)
- “Cancer risk” knowing that 🧑 is contained in the training data: 1 per 2 people





Some basics of HE

RLWE and toy examples with Homomorphic Encryption (HE)

(Polynomial) Ring Learning with Errors

- **(P)RLWE problem:** RLWE relies upon the computational indistinguishability between the following pairs of samples:

$$R_q[z] = \mathbb{Z}_q[z]/(1 + z^n)$$

Elements chosen uniformly at random

$$(a_i, b_i = a_i \cdot s + e_i) \approx (a_i, u_i)$$

$$\chi[z]$$

Elements drawn from the error distribution

(Polynomial) Ring Learning with Errors

- **(P)RLWE problem:** RLWE relies upon the computational indistinguishability between the following pairs of samples:

How difficult is to distinguish highly depends on the length of the polynomials.

$$R_q[z] = \mathbb{Z}_q[z]/(1 + z^n)$$

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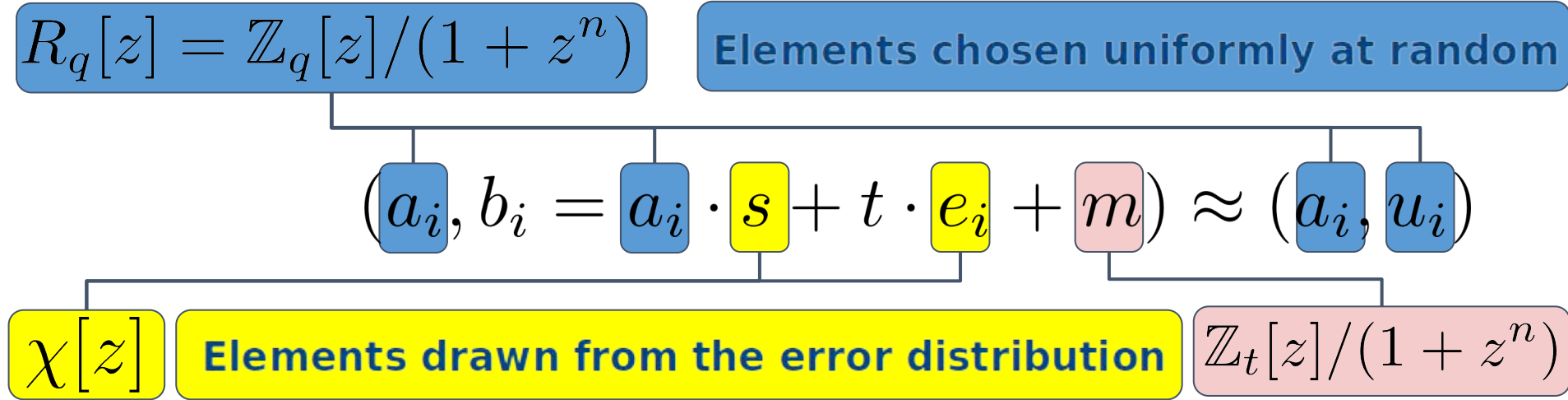
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Elements drawn from the error distribution

PLWE/RLWE: BGV-type example for HE

- **(P)RLWE problem:** RLWE relies upon the computational indistinguishability between the following pairs of samples:



An example of a simple BGV-type HE

- **Consider two encryptions:**

$$\text{Enc}(m_1) = (a_1, b_1 = -a_1s + te_1 + m_1)$$

$$\text{Enc}(m_2) = (a_2, b_2 = -a_2s + te_2 + m_2)$$

- **Decryption:**

$$(b_1 + a_1s \bmod 1 + z^n) \bmod q = m_1 + te_1$$

- **Homomorphic Addition:**

$$\text{Enc}(m_1 + m_2) = (a_{\text{add}} = a_1 + a_2, b_{\text{add}} = b_1 + b_2)$$

$$\text{Enc}(m_1 + m_2) = (a_{\text{add}}, b_{\text{add}} = -a_{\text{add}}s + t(e_1 + e_2) + (m_1 + m_2))$$

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- **Homomorphic Multiplication:**

- It is slightly more complicated

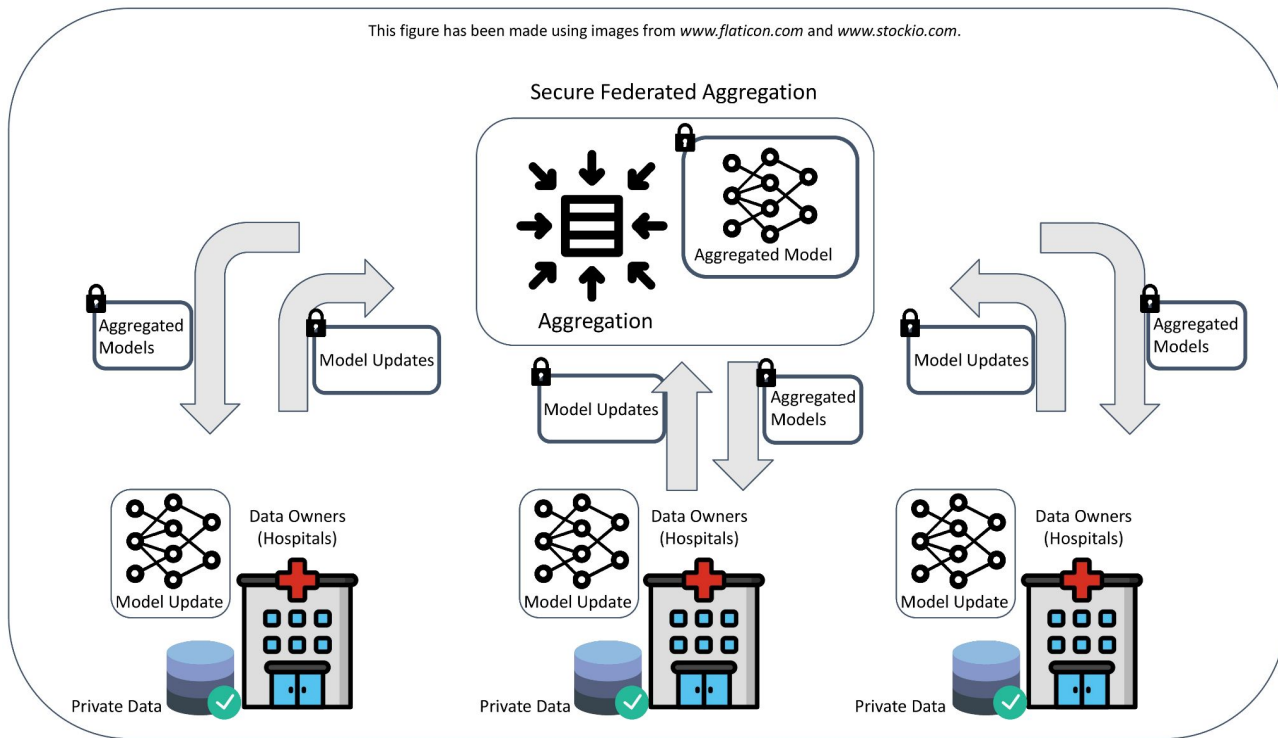


HE for Secure Aggregation

Achieving protection against the aggregator

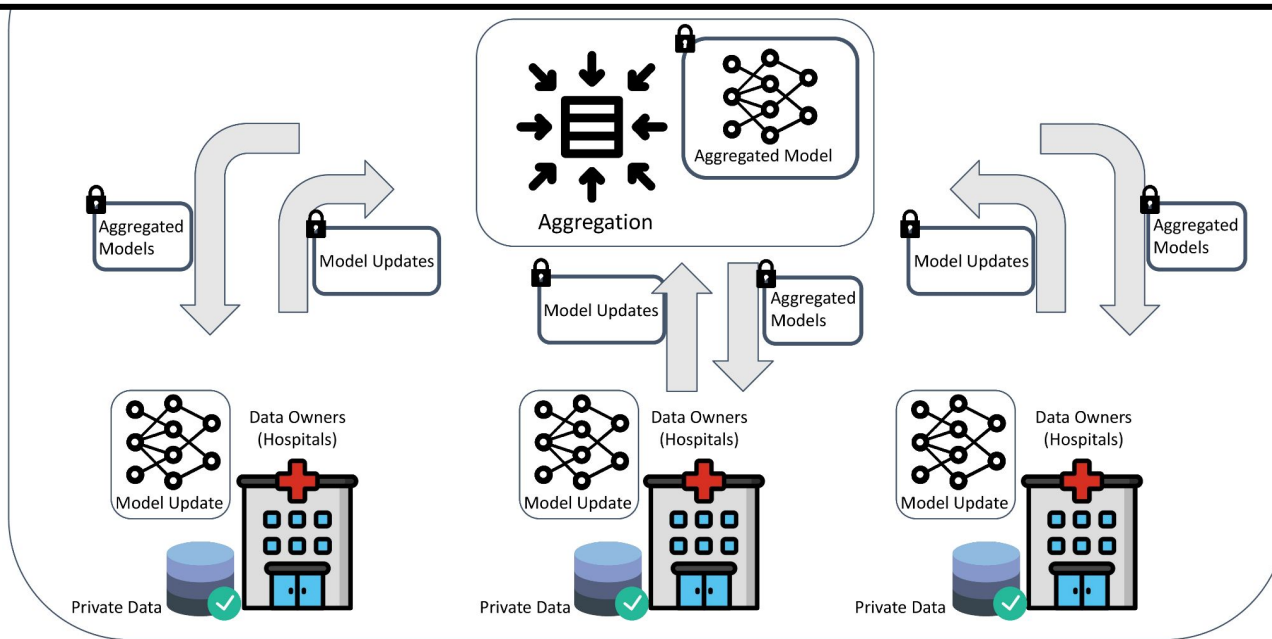
Secure Aggregation: Protection against the aggregator

- Homomorphic Encryption (HE) counters with the confidentiality threats from the Aggregator.



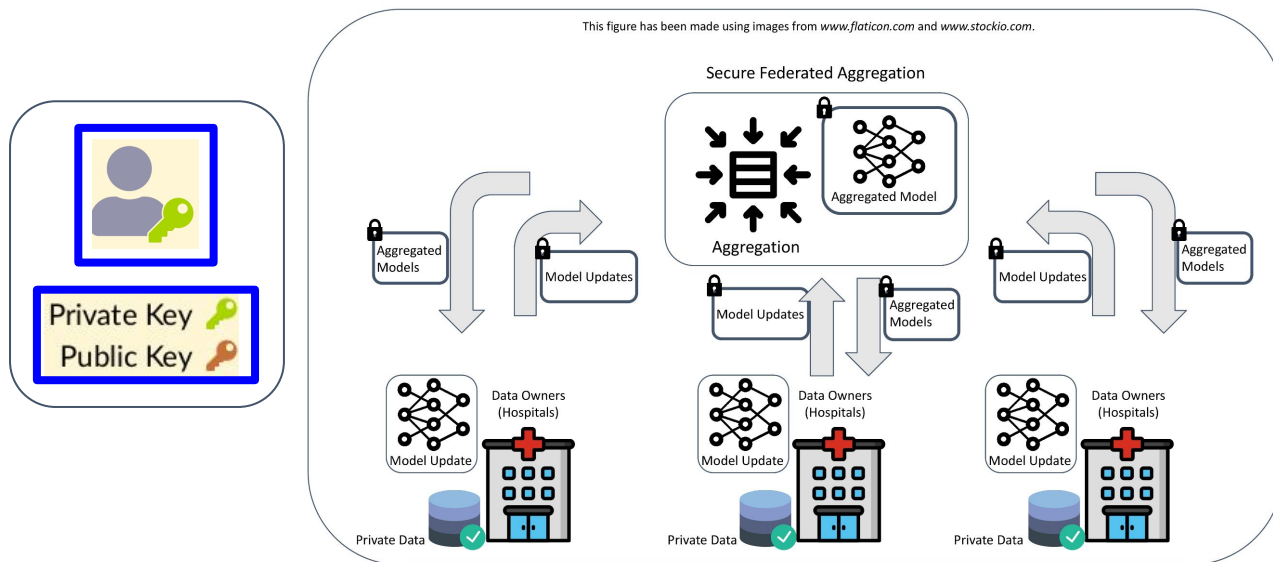
Secure Aggregation: Protection against the aggregator

- Homomorphic Encryption (HE) counters with the confidentiality threats from the Aggregator.
 - It seems to be a perfect fit for secure aggregation.
 - It respects the communication flow of unprotected FL.



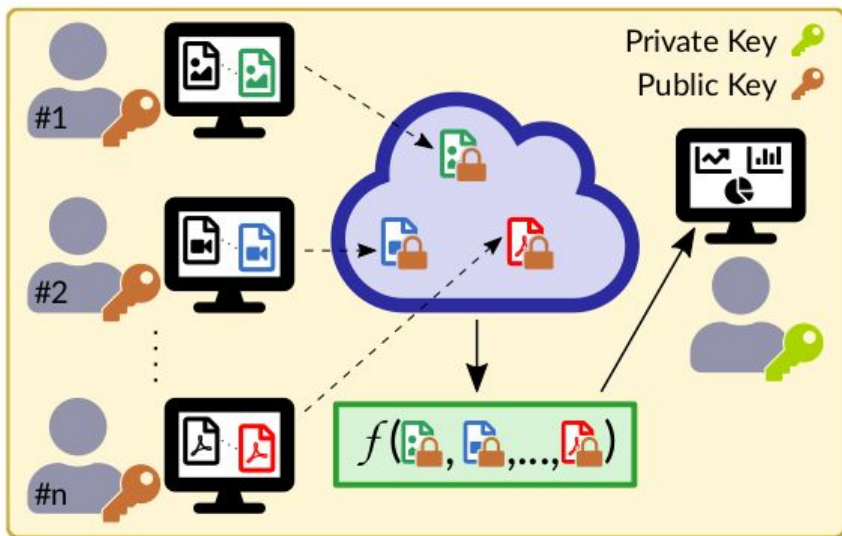
Secure Aggregation: Protection against the aggregator

- Single-key HE imposes the need of
 - a trusted decryptor.
 - non-colluding assumption among Aggregator and decryptor.

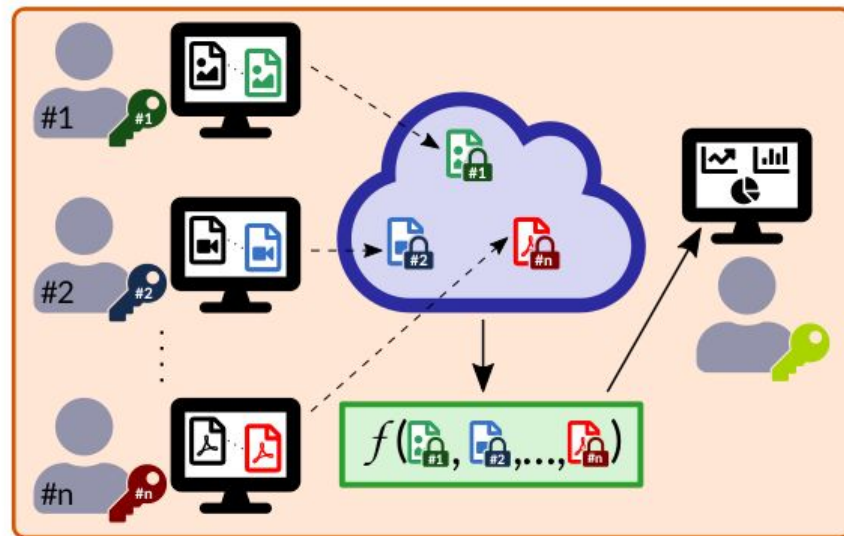


Single-key HE vs Multi-key HE

- Our scenario requires to incorporate multiple keys into HE.
 - Prevents decryption without permission of other participants.



Single key



Multiple keys

(S)HE looks nice, but maybe too many clothes for FL

Our motivation:

- Many works address the problem of secure aggregation in FL.
- To the best of our knowledge, HE has not been yet fully optimized for this setting.

Our objective:

- *Tailor and optimize HE constructions for secure average aggregation.*

We propose:

- *A lightweight communication-efficient multi-key approach suitable for the Federated Averaging rule.*





Undressing HE: a talk with “streptease”

This is not what it seems

First outfit: Using a BFV-type encryption



- **Public key generation:**

$$\text{PK} = \text{Enc}(0) = (a, b = -(as + e))$$

- **Encryption:**

- We encrypt a message $m \in R_p = \mathbb{Z}_p[X]/(1 + X^n)$

$$\text{Enc}(m) = (c_0 = \text{PK}[0]u + e_0, c_1 = \text{PK}[1]u + e_1 + \underbrace{\Delta}_{[q/p]} \cdot m) \in R_q^2$$

- **Multiple keys with an (L-out-of-L) threshold variant of BFV:**

$$\text{SK} = s = s_1 + \dots + s_L$$

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Take it off all

- ***The public key is not needed:***

- Each Data Owner can encrypt with its own secret key.

$$(a, b_i = as_i + e_i + \Delta \cdot m_i)$$



- ***Encrypted updates can be aggregated on the fly:***

- By sharing the same “a”, then “b” components are directly aggregated.

$$\left(a, \sum_i b_i = a \left(\sum_i s_i \right) + \sum_i e_i + \Delta \cdot \sum_i m_i = as + e + \Delta \cdot m \right)$$

- There is no need to send “a”.

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Take it off all

$$\lfloor as_i \rfloor_p = \lfloor p/q \cdot as_i \rfloor$$



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To have distributed decryption, each DO has to send $\lfloor as_i \rfloor_p$

but it also decrypts the input ciphertext!



Proposed solution

Take it off all, but carefully

Proposed solution: You can leave your hat on...



Masking the secret keys: $(a, b_i = a(s_i + \text{share}_i) + e_i + \Delta \cdot m_i)$

$$\left(\sum_i b_i \right) = a \left(s + \underbrace{\sum_i \text{share}_i}_0 \right) + e = a \underbrace{s}_{\sum_i s_i} + \underbrace{e}_{\sum_i e_i} + \Delta \cdot \underbrace{m}_{\sum_i m_i}$$

Building blocks:

- Additive secret shares of zero $\sum_i \text{share}_i = 0$
- A PRF is used to agree in the same “ a ” per each round.
- Next lemma is used to remove the error in a distributed way:

Lemma 1 (Lemma 1 [3]). Let $p|q$, $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow R_q^N$ and $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e} \bmod q$ for some $\mathbf{e} \in R_q^N$ with $\|\mathbf{e}\|_\infty < B < q/p$. Then $\Pr \left(\lfloor \mathbf{y} \rfloor_p \neq \lfloor \mathbf{x} \rfloor_p \bmod p \right) \leq \frac{2npNB}{q}$.

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- It can be used to show that $\lfloor b \rfloor_p = \lfloor as + e \rfloor_p + m \neq \lfloor as \rfloor_p + m$ with at most probability $\Pr(\text{Ev})$

- By bounding $\Pr(\text{Ev}) \leq 2^{-\kappa}$:

$$q \geq 4 \cdot n^2 \cdot N_{\text{AggRounds}} \cdot N_{\text{Ctxts.PerRound}} \cdot p \cdot L^2 \cdot B_{\text{Init}}^2 \cdot 2^\kappa$$

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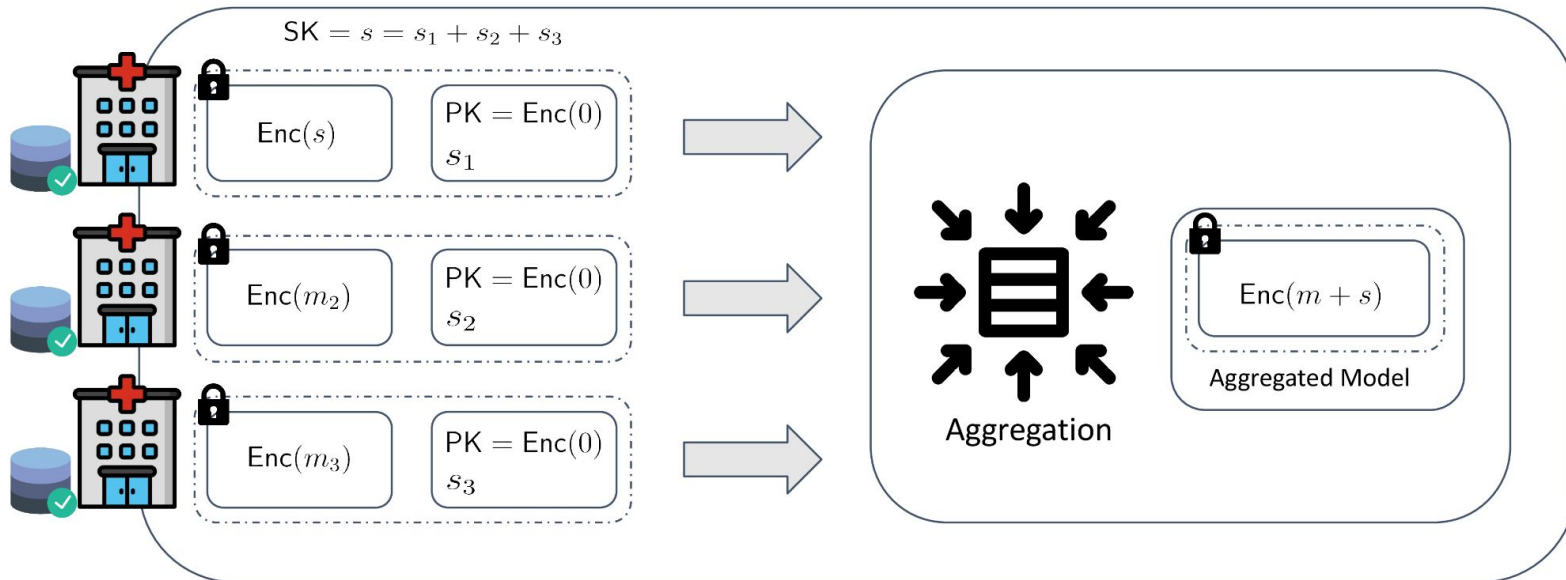
Some nice surprises

Dishonest Data Owners

$$\text{Enc}(0) = (a, b) \in R_q^2$$



$$\text{Enc}(s) = (a - \Delta, b) \in R_q^2$$





Some nice properties

- **Limiting ciphertexts' malleability**
 - By assuming the Common Reference String (CRS) model, a different " a " term is fixed per each aggregation round.
- **Upgrade to malicious aggregators**
 - The Aggregator can only apply additive transformations without being detected.
 - An extra condition check can be embedded into ciphertexts to verify honest behavior.
- **Stronger semi-honest DOs:**
 - As there is no public key, DOs cannot generate encryptions of the global secret key.



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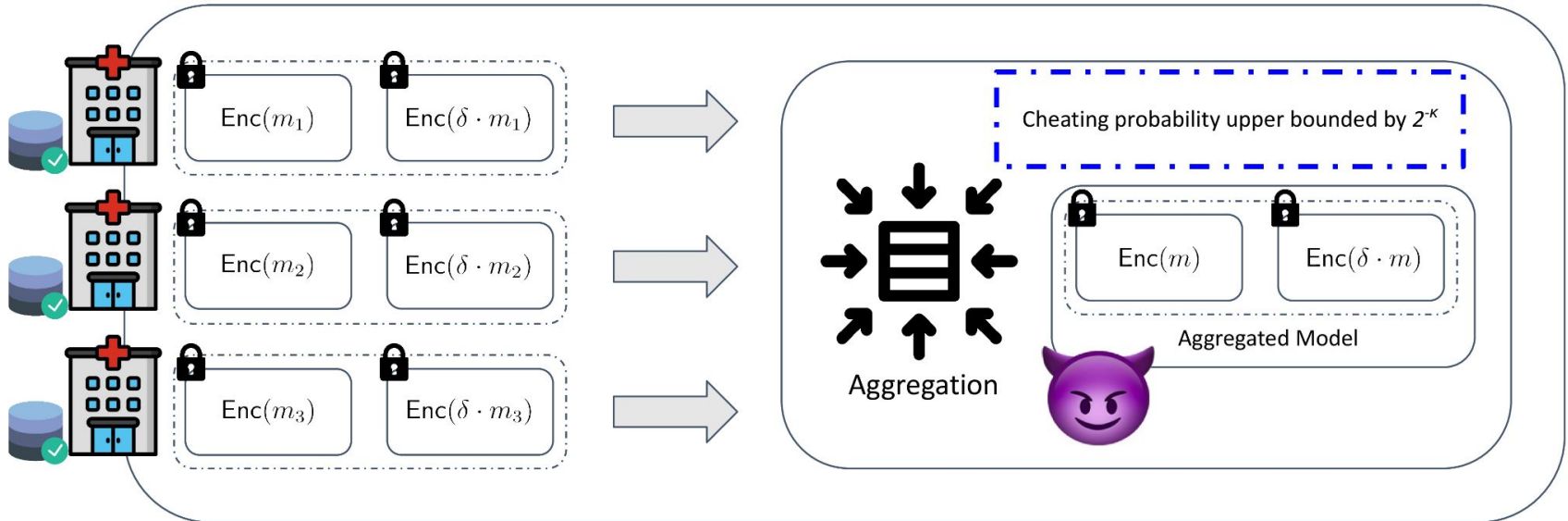


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An upgrade to malicious aggregators

- An extra condition check can be embedded into Secret-Key ciphertexts (e.g., $\delta \cdot m$ with δ unknown to aggregator). This verifies the honest behavior during aggregation.





Some outfit comparisons

Comparing with others HE-based solutions

Comparison with other solutions

M: Model Size N: Number of DOs n: lattice dimension M ≈ constant · n	Ours [2]	[5]	[3]	[4]	[6]
Agg. Comp. Cost	$O(MN)$ add.	$O(MN)$ mult.	$O(MN)$ add.	$O(MN)$ add.	$O(MN^2)$
DO Comp. Cost	LWE: $O(Mn)$ mult. RLWE: $O(M \log M)$ mult.	$O(M)$ exp.	$O(M \log M)$ mult.	$O(M \log M)$ mult.	$O(MN + N^2)$
Total Com. Cost	$O(MN)$	$O(MN)$	$O(MN)$	$O(MN)$	$O(MN + N^2)$
Multiple Keys	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Passive parties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malicious Agg.	✓ Verify Agg.	✓ Verify Agg.	✗	✗	✓ only DOs input privacy if $T > N/2$
Assumptions	LWE/RLWE	Paillier	RLWE	RLWE	T non-colluding DOs
Flexible Dec.	✓ only DOs contributing to aggregated model	✗	✗	✗	✓ required T out of N DOs



Conclusions

When you go to the beach, all you truly need is a bathing suit!



Conclusions

- We *tailor and optimize HE constructions for secure average aggregation.*
- Multi-key homomorphic encryption mitigates *collusion attacks between aggregator and data owners.*
- We propose a lightweight communication-efficient multi-key approach suitable for the Federated Averaging rule.
 - Communication cost per party is reduced approximately
 - by a half with RLWE.
 - from quadratic to linear in terms of lattice dimension if considering LWE.
 - Easy to update to be secure against malicious aggregators.



Thanks for your attention!

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Bonus slides: An example of a simple BGV-type HE

- **Consider two encryptions:**

$$\text{Enc}(m_1) = (a_1, b_1 = -a_1s + te_1 + m_1)$$

$$\text{Enc}(m_2) = (a_2, b_2 = -a_2s + te_2 + m_2)$$

- **Decryption:**

$$(b_1 + a_1s \bmod 1 + z^n) \bmod q = m_1 + te_1$$

- **Homomorphic Addition:**

$$\text{Enc}(m_1 + m_2) = (a_{\text{add}} = a_1 + a_2, b_{\text{add}} = b_1 + b_2)$$

$$\text{Enc}(m_1 + m_2) = (a_{\text{add}}, b_{\text{add}} = -a_{\text{add}}s + t(e_1 + e_2) + (m_1 + m_2))$$

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- **Homomorphic Multiplication:**

- It is slightly more complicated

$$\text{Enc}(m_1m_2) = (a_{\text{mult}}, b_{\text{mult}}, c_{\text{mult}}) = (a_1a_2, a_1b_2 + a_2b_1, b_1b_2)$$

- The number of polynomial elements increases. Decryption is now:

$$(c_{\text{mult}} + b_{\text{mult}}s + a_{\text{mult}}s^2 \bmod 1 + z^n) \bmod q = m_1m_2 + te_{\text{mult}}$$

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- “Relinearization step” is used to relinearize the “decryption circuit”:

$$\text{Relinearization } (a_{\text{mult}}, b_{\text{mult}}, c_{\text{mult}}) = (a_{\text{relin}}, b_{\text{relin}})$$

$$(b_{\text{relin}} + a_{\text{relin}}s \bmod 1 + z^n) \bmod q = m_1 m_2 + t(e_{\text{mult}} + e_{\text{relin}})$$

Proposed solution: some extra details

- The distributed decryption introduces an extra error component

$$e_{\text{distributed}} = \lfloor as \rfloor_p - \sum_i \lfloor as_i \rfloor_p$$

- it can be removed with an additional rounding phase ($q > p' > p$)

$$\Pr(\text{Ev}) \leq \frac{2 \cdot n \cdot N_{\text{AggRounds}} \cdot N_{\text{Ctxts.PerRound}} \cdot p' \cdot B_{\text{Agg}}}{q}$$

$$q \geq 4 \cdot n^2 \cdot N_{\text{AggRounds}} \cdot N_{\text{Ctxts.PerRound}} \cdot p \cdot L^2 \cdot B_{\text{Init}}^2 \cdot 2^\kappa$$

Input per DO	Decryption share per DO	Aggregator output	Decrypted result
$N_{\text{ModelParam}} \cdot \log_2 q$	$N_{\text{ModelParam}} \cdot \log_2 p'$	$N_{\text{ModelParam}} \cdot \log_2 p'$	$N_{\text{ModelParam}} \cdot \log_2 p$

Table 2. Communication costs per party in each aggregation round.

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