

Federated Learning, Privacy & Secure Aggregation — Hands-on

Design and operate federated learning workflows for biomedical and omics projects where data stays at source. This module covers federated learning architectures, privacy risks, secure aggregation, basic differential privacy and governance patterns for multi site collaborations in R and Python ecosystems.

Federated Learning, Privacy & Secure Aggregation

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Session 1

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Federated Learning Concepts & Architectures

Why federated learning for health and omics

[data locality and regulatory constraints](#) [multi hospital and multi lab collaborations](#) [comparison with centralised training](#)

Core FL architectures and workflows

[cross silo vs cross device FL](#) [server client](#)

orchestration loops federated averaging idea
(FedAvg style)

System design considerations for FL projects

network constraints and update cadence client
dropouts and robustness logging and monitoring at
sites

Session 2

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Privacy Threats, Secure Aggregation & DP Basics

Threat models in federated learning

gradient leakage intuition membership inference
attacks overview honest but curious server
perspective

Secure aggregation building blocks

masking and pairwise secrets idea aggregate without
seeing individual updates robustness to client drop
out in aggregation

Differential privacy (DP) intuition for FL

epsilon, delta and sensitivity ideas noise addition to
gradients or updates utility vs privacy tradeoff
thinking

Session 3

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FL for Omics & Clinical Data, Non IID Handling

Data heterogeneity in real FL deployments

non IID feature and label distributions site specific
protocols and instruments class imbalance across
hospitals

Algorithmic tweaks for non IID data

re weighting and per site learning rates **personalised models vs single global model** **simple FedProx style regularisation idea**

Case examples with omics and clinical features

federated risk prediction using EHR covariates **distributed omics signatures across labs** **constraints on feature sharing and harmonisation**

Session 4

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Evaluation, Governance & Deployment Patterns

Evaluating FL models fairly across sites

site wise vs pooled metrics **calibration and fairness per cohort** **communication and compute cost tracking**

Governance, agreements and audit trails

roles of coordinating and participating sites **logging model updates and versions** **alignment with ethics and data privacy boards**

Deliverables: FL pilot design and report pack

architecture diagram and protocol outline **R or Python prototype scripts for FL loop** **risk and mitigation summary for stakeholders**