

Federated Learning

Heiko Ludwig • Nathalie Baracaldo
Editors

Federated Learning

A Comprehensive Overview of Methods
and Applications

 Springer

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Preface

Machine learning has made great strides over the past two decades and has been adopted in many application domains. Successful machine learning depends largely on access to quality data, both labeled and unlabeled.

Concerns related to data privacy, security, and sovereignty have caused public and technical discussion on how to use data for machine learning purposes consistent with regulatory and stakeholder interests. These concerns and legislation have led to the realization that collecting training data in large central repositories may be at odds with maintaining privacy for data owners.

While distributed learning or model fusion has been discussed since at least a decade, federated machine learning (FL) as a concept has been popularized by MacMahan and others since 2017. In the subsequent years, much research has been conducted – both, in academia and the industry – and, at the time of writing this book, the first viable commercial frameworks for federated learning are coming to the market.

This book aims to capture the research progress and state of the art that has been made in the past years, from the initial conception of the field to first applications and commercial use. To get this broad and deep overview, we invited leading researchers to address the different perspectives of federated learning: the core machine learning perspective, privacy and security, distributed systems, and specific application domains.

The book's title, *Federated Learning: A Comprehensive Overview of Methods and Applications*, outlines its scope. It presents in depth the most important issues and approaches to federated learning for researchers and practitioners. Some chapters contain a variety of technical content that is relevant to understand the intricacies of the algorithms and paradigms that make it possible to deploy federated learning in multiple enterprise settings. Other chapters focus on providing clarity on how to select privacy and security solutions in a way that can be tailored to specific use cases, while others take into consideration the pragmatics of the systems where the federated learning process will run.

Given the inherent cross-disciplinary nature of the topic, we encounter different notational conventions in different chapters of the book. What might be parties in

federated machine learning may be called clients in the distributed systems perspectives. In the introductory chapter of this book, we lay out the primary terminology we use, and each chapter explains how the discipline-specific terminology maps to the common one when it is introduced, if this is the case. With this approach, we make this book understandable to readers from diverse backgrounds while staying true to the conventions of the specific disciplines involved.

Taken as a whole, this book enables the reader to get a broad state-of-the-art summary of the most recent research developments.

Editing this book, and writing some of the chapters, required the help of many, who we want to acknowledge. IBM Research gave us the opportunity to work in this exciting field, not just academically but also to put this technology into practice and make it part of a product. We learned invaluable lessons on the journey, and we have much to thank to our colleagues at IBM. In particular, we want to acknowledge our director, *Sandeep Gopisetty*, for giving us the space to work on this book: Gegi Thomas, who made sure our research contributions make their way into the product: and our team members.

The chapter authors provide the substance of this book and were patient with us with requests for changes to their chapters.

We owe greatest thanks to our families, who patiently put up with us devoting time to the book rather than them over the year of writing and editing this book. Heiko is deeply thankful to his wife, *Beatriz Raggio*, for making these sacrifices and supporting him throughout. Nathalie is profoundly thankful to her husband and sons, *Santiago* and *Matthias Bock*, for their love and support and for cheering for all her projects, including this one. She also thanks her parents, Adriana and Jesus; this and many more achievements would not be possible without their amazing and continuous support.

San Jose, CA, USA
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Contents

1	Introduction to Federated Learning	1
	Heiko Ludwig and Nathalie Baracaldo	
Part I Federated Learning as a Machine Learning Problem		
2	Tree-Based Models for Federated Learning Systems	27
	Yuya Jeremy Ong, Nathalie Baracaldo, and Yi Zhou	
3	Semantic Vectorization: Text- and Graph-Based Models	53
	Shalisha Witherspoon, Dean Steuer, and Nirmal Desai	
4	Personalization in Federated Learning	71
	Mayank Agarwal, Mikhail Yurochkin, and Yuekai Sun	
5	Personalized, Robust Federated Learning with Fed+	99
	Pengqian Yu, Achintya Kundu, Laura Wynter, and Shiao Hong Lim	
6	Communication-Efficient Distributed Optimization Algorithms	125
	Gauri Joshi and Shiqiang Wang	
7	Communication-Efficient Model Fusion	145
	Mikhail Yurochkin and Yuekai Sun	
8	Federated Learning and Fairness	177
	Annie Abay, Yi Zhou, Nathalie Baracaldo, and Heiko Ludwig	
Part II Systems and Frameworks		
9	Introduction to Federated Learning Systems	195
	Syed Zawad, Feng Yan, and Ali Anwar	
10	Local Training and Scalability of Federated Learning Systems	213
	Syed Zawad, Feng Yan, and Ali Anwar	
11	Straggler Management	235
	Syed Zawad, Feng Yan, and Ali Anwar	

12 Systems Bias in Federated Learning	259
Syed Zawad, Feng Yan, and Ali Anwar	

Part III Privacy and Security

13 Protecting Against Data Leakage in Federated Learning: What Approach Should You Choose?	281
Nathalie Baracaldo and Runhua Xu	
14 Private Parameter Aggregation for Federated Learning.....	313
K. R. Jayaram and Ashish Verma	
15 Data Leakage in Federated Learning	337
Xiao Jin, Pin-Yu Chen, and Tianyi Chen	
16 Security and Robustness in Federated Learning	363
Amrith Rawat, Giulio Zizzo, Muhammad Zaid Hameed, and Luis Muñoz-González	
17 Dealing with Byzantine Threats to Neural Networks.....	391
Yi Zhou, Nathalie Baracaldo, Ali Anwar, and Kamala Varma	

Part IV Beyond Horizontal Federated Learning: Partitioning Models and Data in Diverse Ways

18 Privacy-Preserving Vertical Federated Learning	417
Runhua Xu, Nathalie Baracaldo, Yi Zhou, Annie Abay, and Ali Anwar	
19 Split Learning: A Resource Efficient Model and Data Parallel Approach for Distributed Deep Learning	439
Praneeth Vepakomma and Ramesh Raskar	

Part V Applications

20 Federated Learning for Collaborative Financial Crimes Detection	455
Toyotaro Suzumura, Yi Zhou, Ryo Kawahara, Nathalie Baracaldo, and Heiko Ludwig	
21 Federated Reinforcement Learning for Portfolio Management	467
Pengqian Yu, Laura Wynter, and Shiao Hong Lim	
22 Application of Federated Learning in Medical Imaging	483
Ehsan Degan, Shafiq Abedin, David Beymer, Angshuman Deb, Nathaniel Braman, Benedikt Graf, and Vandana Mukherjee	
23 Advancing Healthcare Solutions with Federated Learning	499
Amogh Kamat Tarcar	

24	A Privacy-preserving Product Recommender System.....	509
	Tuan M. Hoang Trong, Mudhakar Srivatsa, and Dinesh Verma	
25	Application of Federated Learning in Telecommunications and Edge Computing	523
	Utpal Mangla	