

# **Towards Formalizing Speech Privacy with Differential Privacy**

**Yang Cao (Hokkaido University)**

**2023/10/2 @ SPSC Seminar**

# Outline

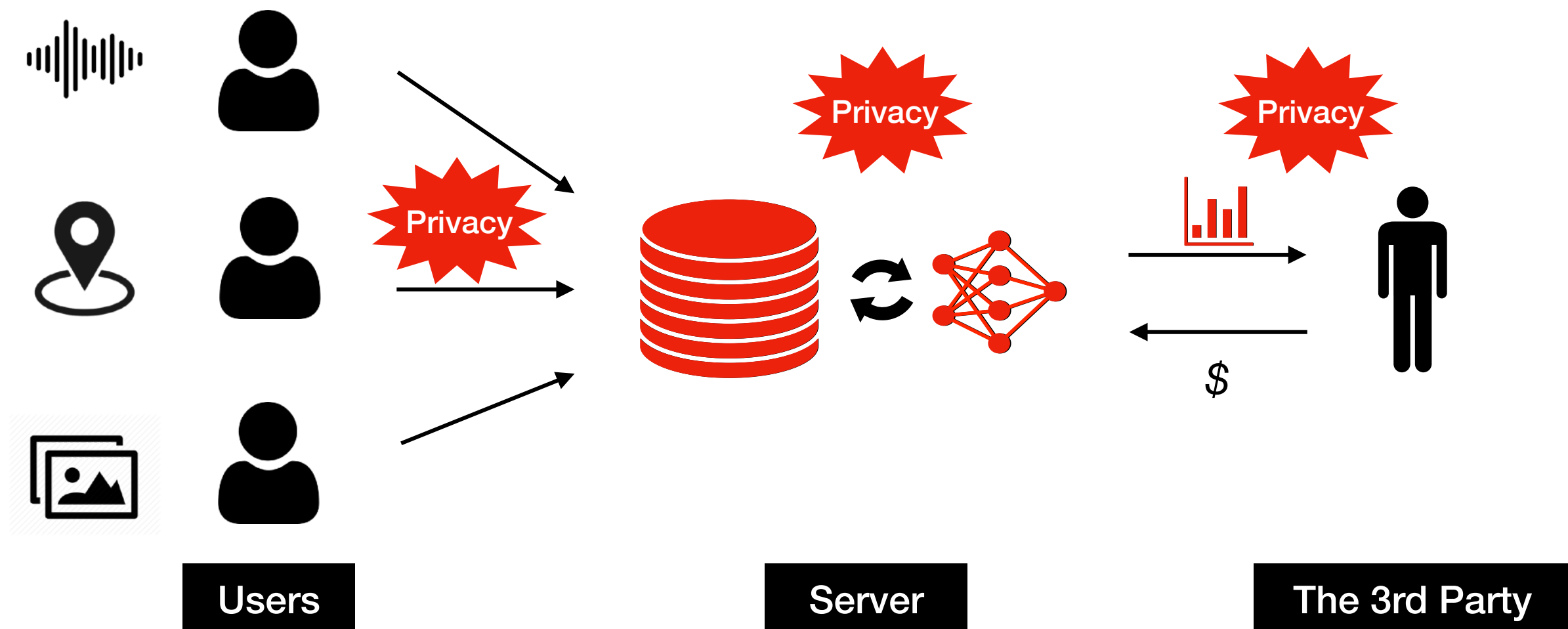
- Scenario and Motivation
  - why we need to formalize speech privacy?
- A brief history of privacy definitions
  - from k-Anonymity to Differential Privacy
- Our Studies for Formalizing Speech Privacy
  - **[ICME20]** Voice-Indistinguishability
  - **[ICASSP23]** General or Specific? Investigating Effective Speech Privacy Protection in Federated Learning for Speech Emotion Recognition
- Open Problems and Future Directions

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# Scenario: Pipeline in Data Science

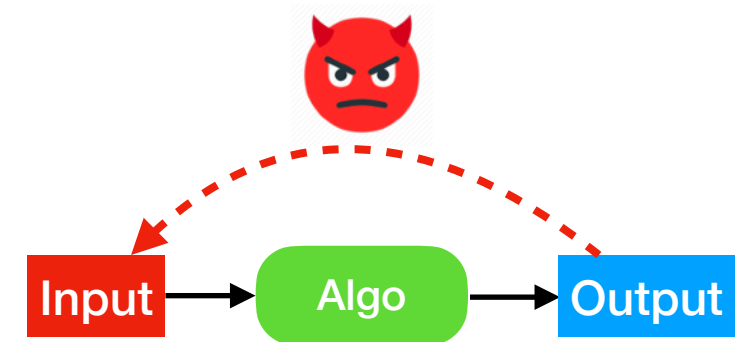
**Collecting** → **Analyzing/Training** → **Sharing/Monetizing**



# Privacy Concerns

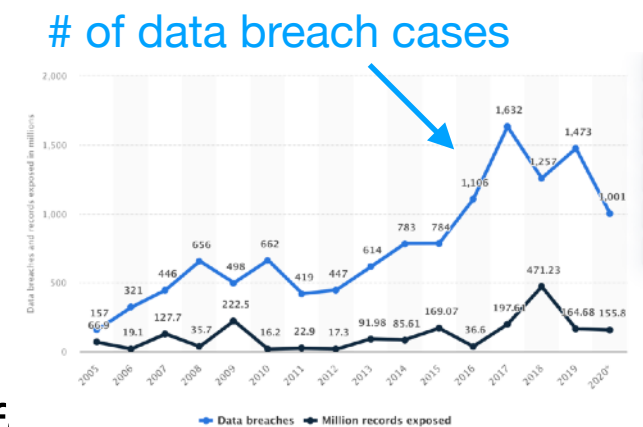
- **Privacy Attacks**

- *Data reconstruction attack* against statistical info [1] and ML models [2]
- *Membership inference attack* against machine learning models [3]



- **Real-world Privacy Incidents**

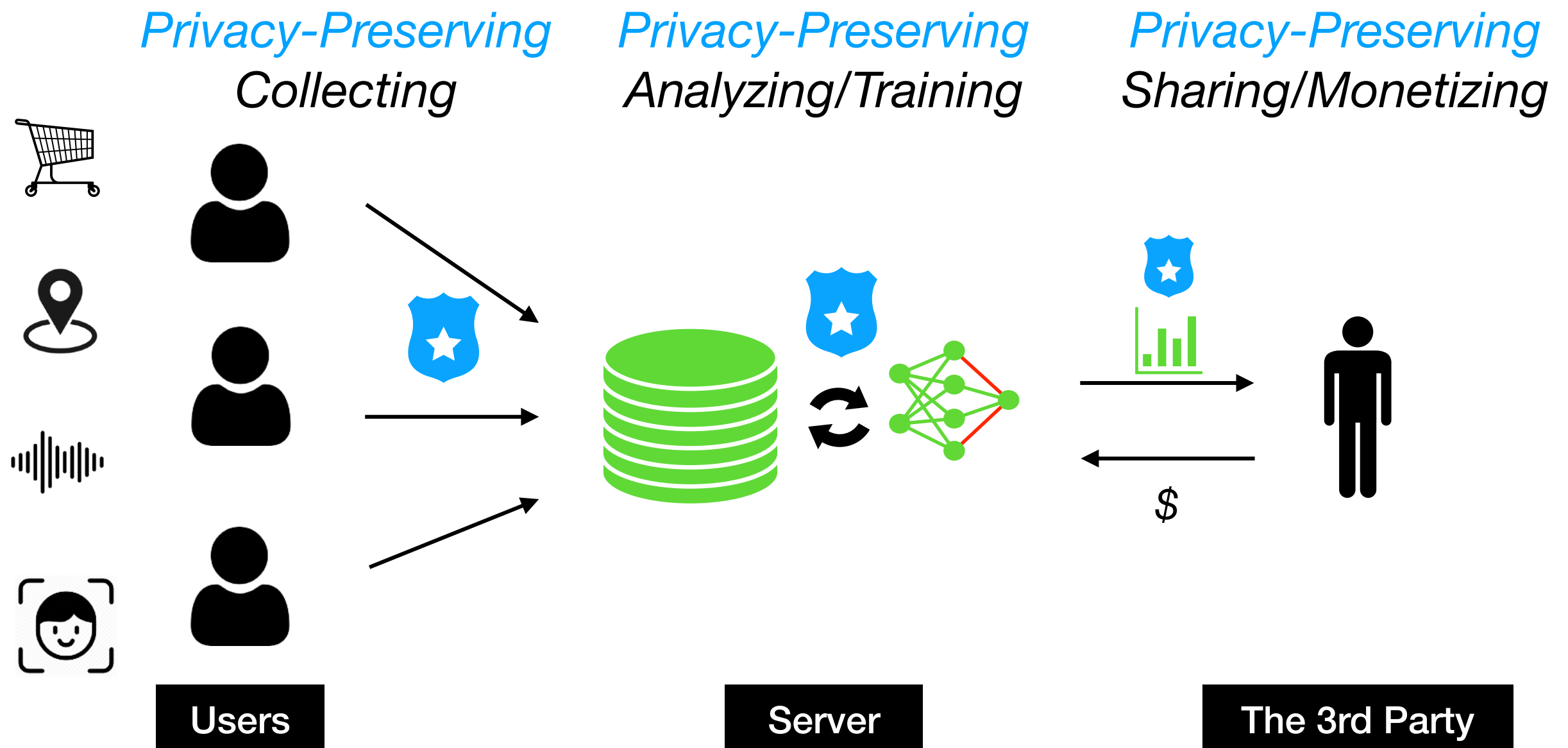
- De-identified **AOL** search log can be re-identified (2006)
- **NIH's** DNA dataset discloses users' disease (2008)
- **Netflix** anonymized watch history dataset reveals user's sensitive info (2008)
- **Facebook**-Cambridge Analytica Data Scandal (2018)
- **Apple** collects users' speech data for Siri quality evaluation process (2020)
- **! Privacy issues may hinder the development of data science**
  - Individuals or organizations are not willing to share their data



[1] Dinur et al., "Revealing Information While Preserving Privacy." ACM PODS 2013.  
[2] Papernot et al., "SoK: Security and Privacy in Machine Learning." IEEE Euro S&P 2018.  
[3] Shokri et al., "Membership inference attacks against machine learning models." IEEE S&P 2017.

# Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PET)

is indispensable for Data-Driven Society



# Why We Need to Formalize Privacy

- If privacy is the goal, we need to clarify **What Privacy Is.**
- Privacy is often an **ambiguous concept**, like
  - “the data is invisible to the adversary”
  - “my identify is invisible to the server”
  - “my identify is  $\epsilon$ -differentially private to the server”
- We need to have a **mathematically quantifiable metrics** about the privacy risk
  - what is the scenario, what is the secret, who is the adversary, what kinds of attacks, etc..

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# A Key Question: How to Define Privacy

- (2000 ~ 2006) Early efforts on “*privacy as anonymity*”
  - k-anonymity [4], L-diversity [5], t-closeness [6]
  - Such a privacy definition is conditioned on the *attackers' knowledge*

[4] Sweeney, "k-anonymity: A model for protecting privacy." Int. J. Uncertain. Fuzziness Knowl.-Based Syst, 2002.

[5] Machanavajjhala et al., "L-diversity: Privacy beyond k-anonymity." ACM TKDD 2007.

[6] Li et al., "t-Closeness: Privacy Beyond k-Anonymity and l-Diversity." IEEE ICDE 2007.

# Data Privacy in the early age (2000~2006)

- A Runining Example: Medical Data Sharing
  - Medical records is **valuable** for data analysis
  - But the health condition is very **sensitive!**

medical records

Name	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
Tom	M	1/1	1001	cardiopathy
Jack	M	1/2	1002	diabete
Bob	M	1/3	1003	HIV
Wang	F	2/1	2001	HIV
Alice	F	2/2	2002	HIV
Dua	F	2/3	2003	HIV

**sensitive!**

# First thought: anonymize by removing PII

- **PII** = Personally Identifying Information
  - anything that identifies the person directly
  - Name, Phone number, Email, Address ...
- 💡 Cut the link between a specific person and the medical record

medical records without PII

Name	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
	M	1/1	1001	cardiopathy
	M	1/2	1002	diabete
	M	1/3	1003	HIV
V	F	2/1	2001	HIV
	F	2/2	2002	HIV
	F	2/3	2003	HIV

Is it secure to release?

# Data Privacy in the early age (2000~2006)

## Re-identification by Linkage Attack

- Just removing PII is **not** enough

### “Anonymized” Medical records

ID	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
r1	M	1/1	1001	cardiopathy
r2	M	1/2	1002	diabete
r3	M	1/3	1003	HIV
r4	F	2/1	2001	HIV
r5	F	2/2	2002	HIV
r6	F	2/3	2003	HIV

### Attacker's Prior Knowledge

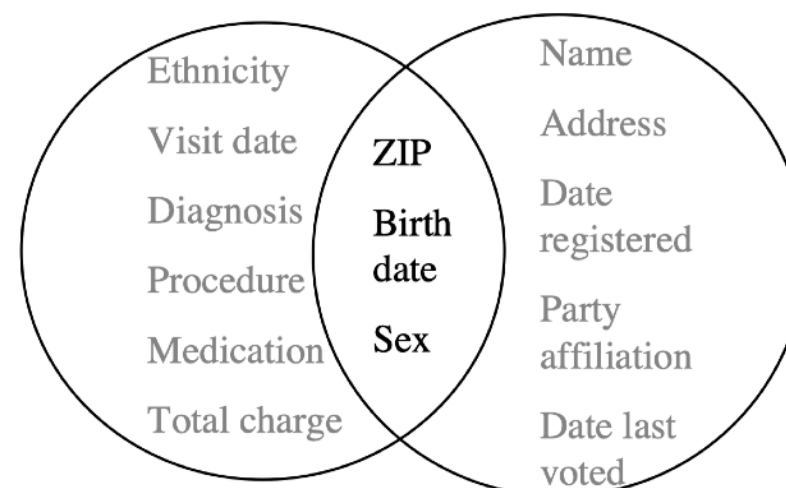
I know Bob:  
{M, 1/3, 1003}  
so **r3 = Bob!**



- A real-world linkage attack [1]

“Anonymized”

Massachusetts hospital  
discharge dataset



Public voter dataset

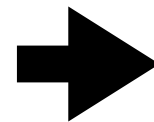
# Data Privacy in the early age (2000~2006)

## k-Anonymity

- **Quasi-identifiers**
  - Can be used for linking anonymized dataset with other datasets

quasi-identifier

	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
	M	1/1	1001	cardiopathy
	M	1/2	1002	diabete
	M	1/3	1003	HIV
	F	2/1	2001	HIV
	F	2/2	2002	HIV
	F	2/3	2003	HIV



3-Anonymity

	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
	M	1/*	100*	cardiopathy
	M	1/*	100*	diabete
	M	1/*	100*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV

I know Bob:  
{M, 1/3, 1003}  
but **which one is Bob?**



Sweeney, "k-anonymity: A model for protecting privacy." Int. J. Uncertain. Fuzziness Knowl.-Based Syst, 2002.

# Data Privacy in the early age (2000~2006)

## L-diversity

- Hide me in a crowd of people with L-diverse sensitive data

### 3-Anonymity

	Sex	Birth	ZIP	disease
	M	1/*	100*	cardiopathy
	M	1/*	100*	diabete
	M	1/*	100*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV
	F	2/*	200*	HIV

all people in this group  
have HIV !

### 2-diversity

UID	gender	Birth	ZIP	disease
u1	male	1/*	>10	cardiopathy
u2	male	1/*	>10	diabete
u3	male	1/*	>10	HIV
u4	female	1*/*	>20	HIV
u5	female	1*/*	>20	HIV
u6	female	1*/*	>20	diabete

A. Machanavajjhala, D. Kifer, J. Gehrke, and M. Venkatasubramanian, “**L-diversity: Privacy beyond k-anonymity**,” ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 3–es, Mar. 2007.

# Data Privacy in the early age (2000~2006)

## T-closeness

- Hide me in a group and the groups should have similar distr.

UID	gender	Birth	ZIP	disease
u1	male	1/*	>10	cardiopathy
u2	male	1/*	>10	diabete
u3	male	1/*	>10	HIV
u4	female	1*/*	>20	HIV
u5	female	1*/*	>20	HIV
u6	female	1*/*	>20	diabete

2-diversity

people in this group has  
high risk of HIV !

UID	gender	Birth	ZIP	disease
u1	male	1/*	>10	cardiopathy
u2	male	1/*	>10	diabete
u3	male	1/*	>10	HIV
u4	female	1*/*	>20	HIV
u5	female	1*/*	>20	cardiopathy
u6	female	1*/*	>20	diabete

0.167-closeness

similarity between the  
distributions of two groups

[5]N. Li, T. Li, and S. Venkatasubramanian, “**t-Closeness: Privacy Beyond k-Anonymity and l-Diversity**,” in IEEE 23rd International Conference on Data Engineering, 2007. ICDE 2007, pp. 106–115.

# Limitations of k-Anonymity family

- “All these notions, however, are **syntactic**, in the sense that they define a property about the final “anonymized” dataset, and do not consider the algorithm or mechanism via which the output is obtained.” [\*]
- A modern view of data privacy: **privacy should be a property of algorithm, instead of data.**
- How can we define privacy in this way?

[\*] N. Li, M. Lyu, D. Su, and W. Yang, **Differential Privacy: From Theory to Practice**. Morgan & Claypool Publishers, 2016.



# Differential Privacy (DP) (2006~now)

## From **Semantic security** to **Differential Privacy**

- **Semantic Security** [\*]:

$\Pr(\mathbf{Attacker}(\text{length of plaintext, ciphertext})=\text{output})$

$\approx$

$\Pr(\mathbf{Attacker}(\text{length of plaintext})=\text{output})$

- **Differential Privacy**

$\Pr(\mathbf{M}(\text{data with Bob})=\text{output})$

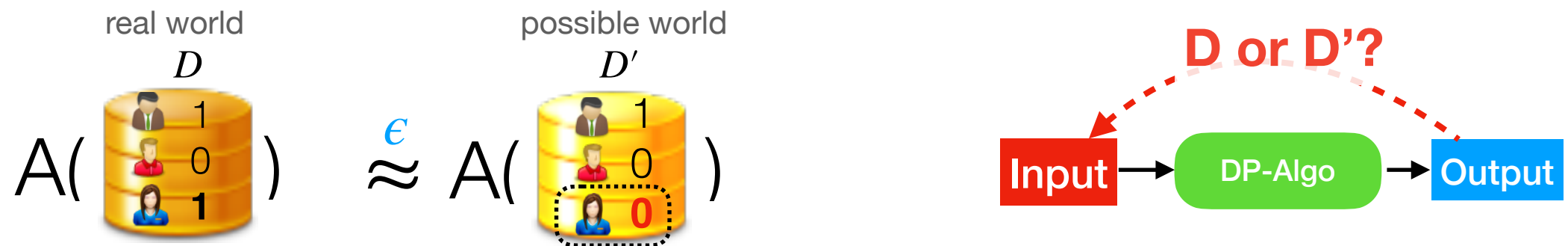
$\approx$



$\Pr(\mathbf{M}(\text{data without Bob})=\text{output})$

[\*]S. Goldwasser, S. Micali (1982). "**Probabilistic encryption and how to play mental poker keeping secret all partial information**". Proc. 14th Symposium on Theory of Computing: \*the author won Turing Award in 2012.

# Differential Privacy (DP) [7]

- Randomized Algorithm  $A$  satisfies  $\epsilon$ -DP over  $D$ , iff  $\forall o, D, D', \frac{\Pr(A(D) = o)}{\Pr(A(D') = o)} \leq e^\epsilon$  where  $D$  and  $D'$  differ in any one individual record.



- Privacy parameter  $\epsilon$  ( $\epsilon \geq 0$ ):  $\epsilon$  , privacy guarantee 
- Intuitively, **DP is a constraint on algorithms**: the algorithm's output should not be influenced significantly by any single record of the input database

[7] Dwork, Cynthia. "Differential privacy." International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming, 2006.

# DP has many variants, but all follow DP's principle

- **( $\epsilon, \delta$ )-DP**: relaxation. Allow violation of  $\epsilon$ -DP in probability  $\delta$ 
  - $\forall D, D', \Pr(o \mid D) \leq \Pr(o \mid D') * e^\epsilon + \delta$
- **PDP**: everyone has a personalized  $\epsilon$ .
- **Pufferfish Privacy**: generalization of DP under constraints
- **Renyi DP**: re-place the distance of ( $\epsilon, \delta$ )-DP using Renyi divergence
- **Geo-indistinguishability**: apply DP to location data
- **Local DP**: achieve DP with an untrusted server
- **Shuffle DP**: better privacy-utility trade-off by introducing a shuffler between client and server
- **Voice-indistinguishability**: apply DP to voiceprint. our work in ICME20
- .... see [\*] [\*\*] for more details.

[\*] I. Wagner and D. Eckhoff, “**Technical Privacy Metrics**: A Systematic Survey,” ACM Comput. Surv., 2018.

[\*\*] B. Pejó and D. Desfontaines, “**SoK: Differential Privacies**,” in PETS, 2020.

# Building blocks of DP mechanisms

- **Laplace mechanism** [\*]

- for  $Q(*)$  returns **real value**.
- Adding Laplace noise  $\text{lap}(\Delta/\epsilon)$  to  $Q(D) \rightarrow \epsilon$ -DP
- $\Delta$  is called sensitivity of  $Q(*)$ ,  $\Delta = |Q(D) - Q(D')|$  for any  $D, D'$ .

- **Gaussian Mechanism**

- for  $Q(*)$  returns **real value**
- Adding Gaussian noise  $\mathcal{N}(\sigma^2)$  where  $\sigma = 2\Delta \log(1.25/\delta)/\epsilon^2$  to  $Q(D)$ , then we have  **$(\epsilon, \delta)$ -DP**
- less noise than Laplace mechanism for vector-valued functions

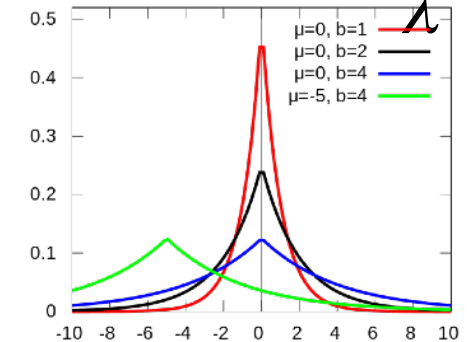
- **Exponential mechanism** [\*\*]

- For  $Q(*)$  returns **categorical values**
- Return  $Q(D)$  randomly (see \*\* for more details)

- **Random Response (RR)**

- For  $Q(*)$  returns **categorical values** and **without (trusted) central server** to collect all user data.
- E.g., assume  $d = \{0, 1\}$  RR will output 1 w/ Prob.  $\frac{e^\epsilon}{e^\epsilon + 1}$  if  $d=1$ ; output 1 w/ Prob.  $\frac{1}{e^\epsilon + 1}$  if  $d=0$ .

$$\text{Lap}(x | \lambda) = (2\lambda)^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{|x|}{\lambda}\right)$$



Local DP

[\*] C. Dwork, et al, Calibrating Noise to Sensitivity in Private Data Analysis, in TCC 2006.

[\*\*] F. McSherry and K. Talwar, Mechanism Design via Differential Privacy, in FOCS, 2007.

# Properties of DP

## Composition Theorems & Post-processing

- Sequential composition:
  - if  $\mathbf{M1(D)}$  satisfies  $\epsilon_1$ -DP and  $\mathbf{M2(D)}$  satisfies  $\epsilon_2$ -DP, then we can say  $\mathbf{M=\{M1,M2\}}$  satisfies  $(\epsilon_1+\epsilon_2)$ -DP over D.
- Parallel composition:
  - Assuming  $D=D1 \cap D2$  and  $D1, D2$  are disjointed.
  - if  $\mathbf{M1(D1)}$  satisfies  $\epsilon_1$ -DP and  $\mathbf{M2(D2)}$  satisfies  $\epsilon_2$ -DP, then we can say  $\mathbf{M=\{M1,M2\}}$  satisfies  $\max\{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2\}$ -DP over D.
- Post-Processing
  - if  $M(D)$  satisfies  $\epsilon$ -DP, for any deterministic or randomized function  $f$ ,  $f(M(D))$  satisfies  $\epsilon$ -DP

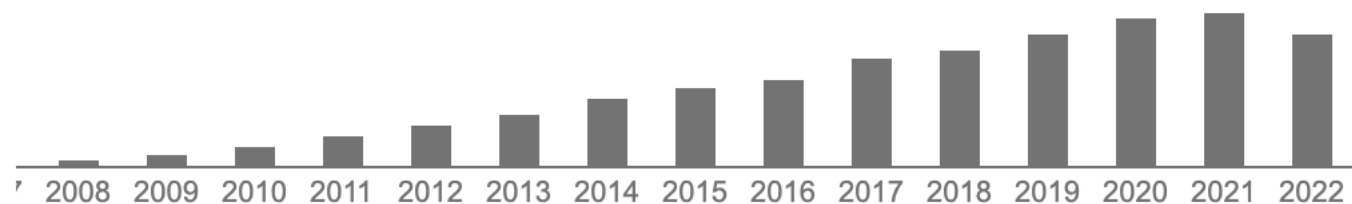
# DP in Academia

- Design “DP version” algorithms

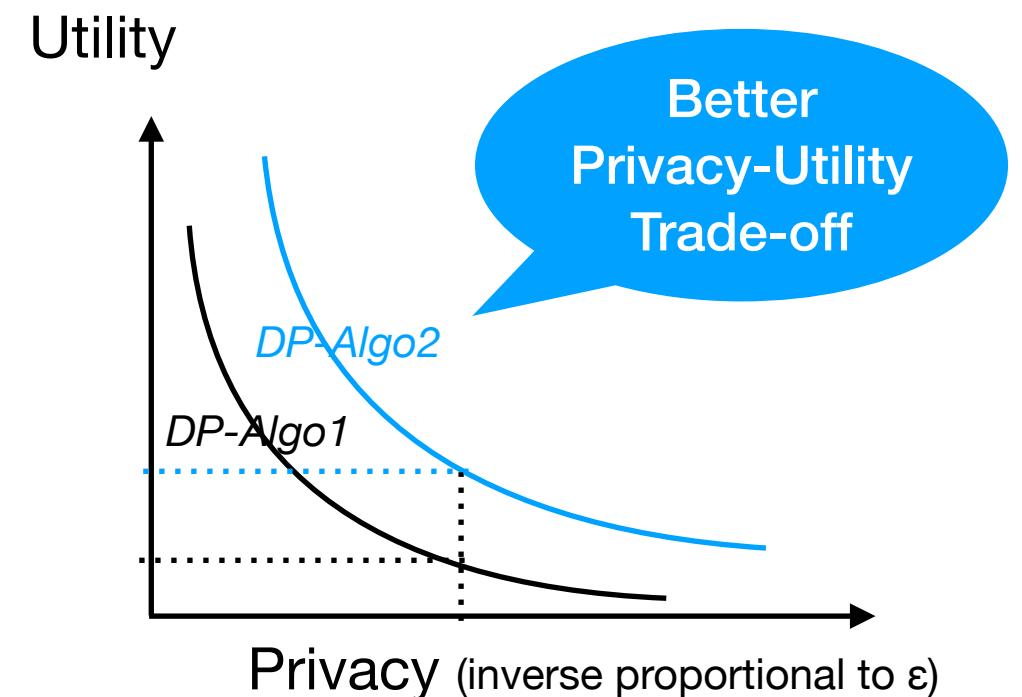
- Differentially Private Data Collection [8]
- Differentially Private Data Mining [9]
- Differentially Private Machine Learning [10]

# of citation of Dwork’s DP survey paper [11]

引用元 9058



- Holy Grail: **Privacy-Utility Trade-off**



[8] “Differentially private data publishing and analysis: A survey.” IEEE TKDE. 2017.

[9] “Data mining with differential privacy.” ACM KDD 2010.

[10] “A survey on differentially private machine learning.” IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine. 2020.

[11] Dwork, Cynthia. “Differential privacy: A survey of results.” Intl. conf. on theory and applications of models of computation, 2008.

# DP in Industry

- **Google** - collect Chrome user click statistics (2014); release COVID-19 mobility statistics (2020)
- **Apple** - analyze App and Emoji usage (2017)
- **Microsoft** - collect Windows crash statistics (2017)
- **Facebook/Meta** - release user-sharing-url datasets (2020)
- **US Census 2020** - release demographic statistics (2020)

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# Voice-Indistinguishability

## Protecting Voiceprint in Privacy-Preserving Speech Data Release

Yaowei Han, Sheng Li, Yang Cao, Qiang Ma, Masatoshi Yoshikawa  
Department of Social Informatics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan  
National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Kyoto, Japan



01 Motivation

02 Related Works

03 Problem Setting and Contributions

04 Our Solution

05 Experiments and Conclusion



01

Motivation

# Motivation - Speech Data Release



## Speech Data Release

Share speech dataset with the 3rd parties



Eg. Apple collects speech data for Siri quality evaluation process, which they call grading.

The screenshot shows the Kaggle website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links to Home, Compete, Data, Notebooks, Discuss, Courses, and More. Below this is a 'Recently Viewed' section listing datasets like 'Synthetic Speech Com...', 'Master Tier Criteria', 'Avito Context Ad Clicks', 'Pokemon- Weedle's Ca...', and 'Classify Fashion\_Mnist...'. The main content area displays the 'Speech Accent Archive' dataset by Rachael Tatman, updated 3 years ago (Version 2). It shows a 'Data' tab selected, with 'Usability' 7.6 and 'License' CC BY-NC-SA 4.0. The 'Description' section includes a 'Context:' paragraph explaining that the archive is established to exhibit a large set of speech of English all read the same English paragraph and are carefully recorded. The text is partially cut off at the bottom.



# Motivation - Risks of Speech Data Release



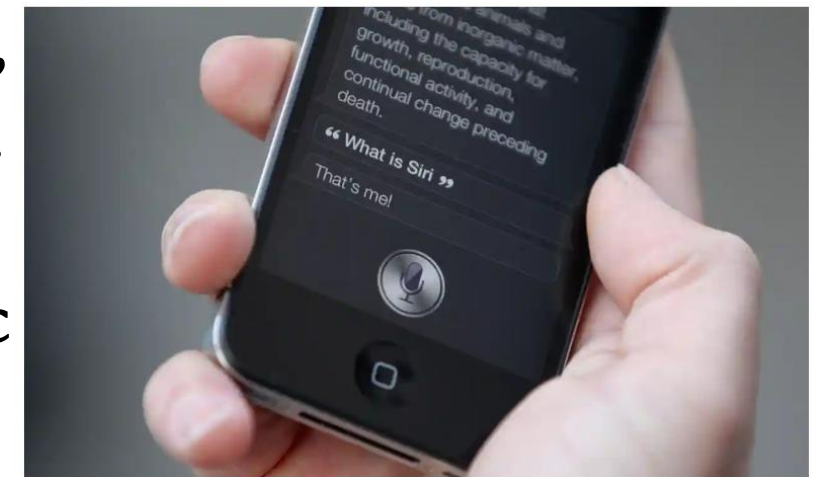
## Risks of Speech Data Release

### Privacy concern.

- Speech data is personal data.
- Everybody has a unique **voiceprint**, which is a kind of **biometric** identifiers.
- GDPR<sup>[1]</sup> **bans** the sharing of biometric identifiers.

Apple contractors 'regularly hear confidential details' on Siri recordings

Workers hear drug deals, medical details and people having sex, says whistleblower



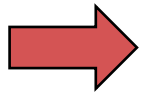
[1] A. Nautsch and et al., "The GDPR & speech data: Reflections of legal and technology communities, first steps towards a common understanding," 2019.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jul/26/apple-contractors-regularly-hear-confidential-details-on-siri-recordings>



## Risks of Speech Data Release

### Security risks.

- **Spoofing attacks** to the voice authentication systems
- **Reputation attacks** ( fake Obama speech<sup>[1]</sup>)



**How to protect privacy in speech data release?**

02

## Related Works

## Related Works

	Privacy		Voice technology
	protection level	privacy guarantee	
[1][2]	voice-level	ad-hoc	Vocal Tract Length Normalization (VTLN)
[3][4]	feature-level	k-anonymity	Speech Synthesize
[5]	model-level	ad-hoc	ASR

[1] J. Qian and et al., “Hidebehind: Enjoy voice input with voiceprint unclonability and anonymity,” in ACM SenSys 2018.

[2] B. Srivastava and et al., “Evaluating voice conversion-based privacy protection against informed attackers,” arXiv preprint arXiv:1911.03934, 2019.

[3] T. Justin and et al., “Speaker deidentification using diphone recognition and speech synthesis,” in FG 2015.

[4] F. Fang and et al., “Speaker anonymization using X-vector and neural waveform models,” in 10th ISCA Speech Synthesis Workshop, 2019.

[5] B. Srivastava and et al., “Privacy-Preserving Adversarial Representation Learning in ASR: Reality or Illusion?,” in Interspeech 2019.



### **Existing methods for protecting speech data privacy**

- (1) Speech2text
- (2) K-anonymity

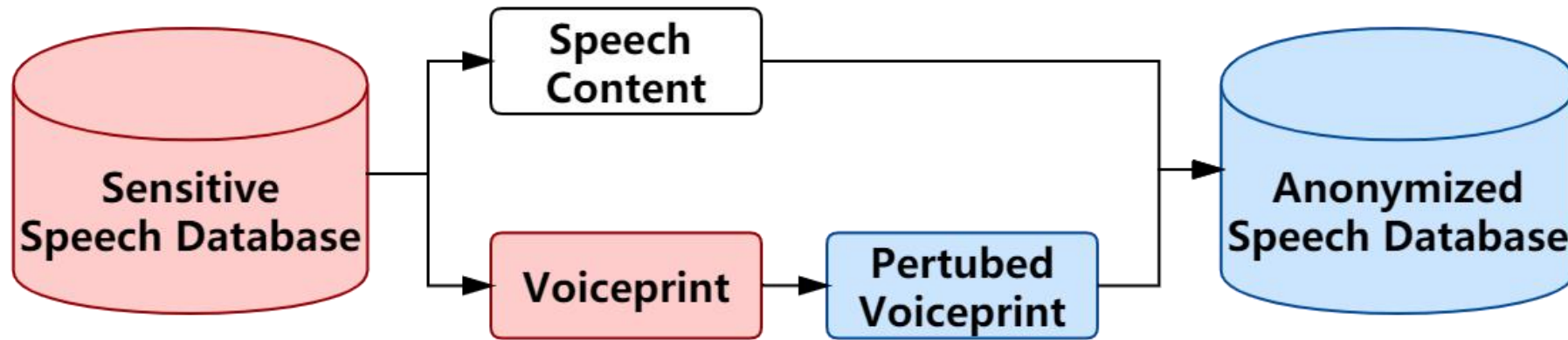
### **However, they are insufficient because**

- (1) Speech2text
  - not useful for speech analysis
  - without any formal privacy guarantee
- (2) K-anonymity
  - based on the assumption of attackers' knowledge
  - (= not secure under powerful attackers)

# 03 / Problem Setting and Contributions

## Problem Setting

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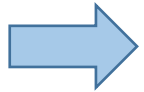
Privacy-preserving speech data release

We focus on protecting voiceprint, i.e., user voice identity.

1

## How to formally define voiceprint privacy?

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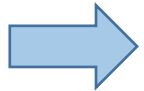
### Voice-Indistinguishability

- The first formal privacy definition for voiceprint, not depend on attacker's background knowledge.

## How to design a mechanism achieving our privacy definition?

---

2



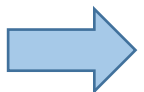
### Voiceprint perturbation mechanism

- Use voiceprint to present user voice identity
- Our mechanism output a anonymized voiceprint

3

## How to implement frameworks for private speech data release?

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### Privacy-preserving speech synthesis

- Synthesize voice record with anonymized voiceprint



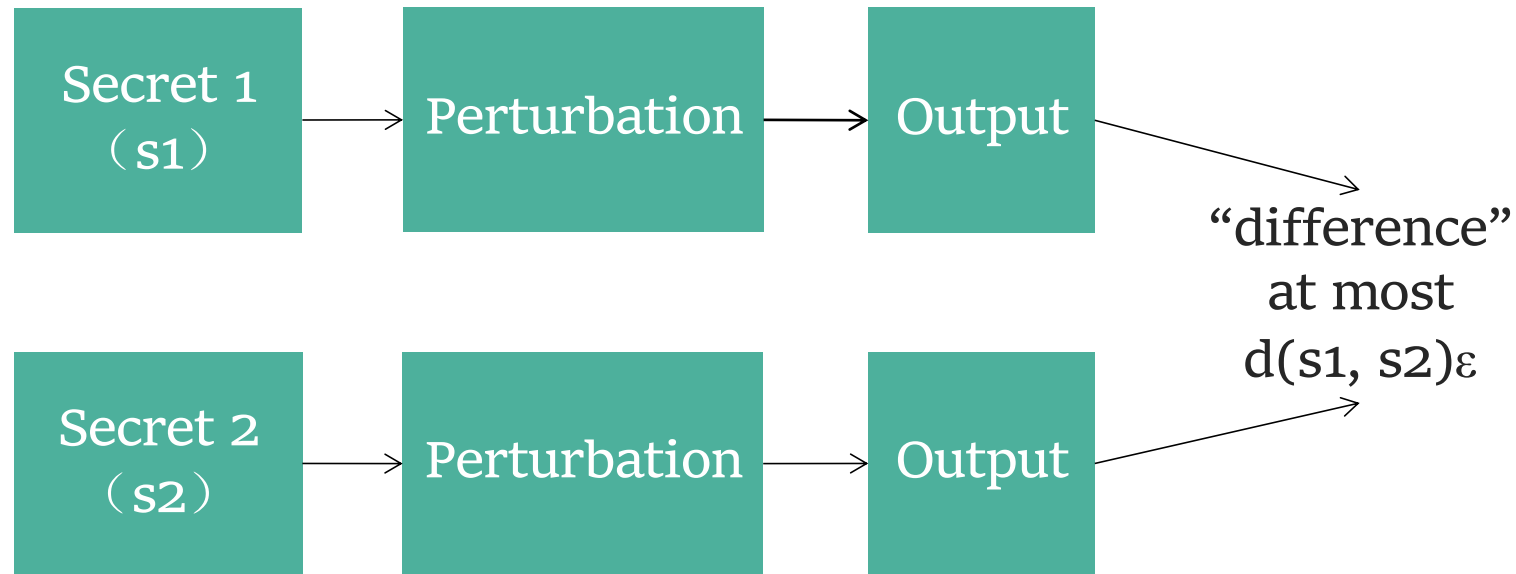
04

Our Solution

# Our Solution - Metric Privacy

How to formally define voiceprint privacy?

## Definition of Metric Privacy



Advantages:

- 1) Has no assumptions on the attackers' background knowledge.
- 2) Privacy loss can be quantified.

the bigger  $\epsilon$  -> the better utility, the weaker privacy

- 3)  $d(s1, s2)$ : distance **metric** between **secrets**.

# Our Solution - Decision of Secrets

---

When applying metric privacy, we should decide secrets and distance metric.

- What's the secret?

Voiceprint

- How to represent the voiceprint?

**x-vector**<sup>[1]</sup>, a widely used speaker space vector.

For example. 512 dimensional

[1.291081 0.9634209 ... 2.59955]

## Our Solution - Decision of Distance Metric

---

When applying metric privacy, we should decide secrets and distance metric.

- How to define the distance metric between voiceprint?

Euclidean distance? **×**

Can not well represent the distance between two x-vectors

Cosine distance? **×**

Widely used in speaker recognition but doesn't satisfy triangle inequality

Angular distance? **YES**

Also a kind of cosine distance but satisfies triangle inequality



# Our Solution - Voice-Indistinguishability

How to formally define voiceprint privacy?

**For single user**

**Voice-Indistinguishability, Voice-Ind**

$$\frac{\Pr(\tilde{x}|x)}{\Pr(\tilde{x}|x')} \leq e^{\epsilon d_{\mathcal{X}}(x,x')}$$
$$d_{\mathcal{X}} = \frac{\arccos(\cos \text{ similarity} < x, x' >)}{\pi}$$

**For multiple users in a speech dataset**

**Speech Data Release under Voice-Ind**

$$\frac{\Pr(\tilde{D}|D)}{\Pr(\tilde{D}|D')} \leq e^{\epsilon d(D,D')}$$
$$d(D, D') = d_{\mathcal{X}}(x, x')$$

$\epsilon$ : privacy budget  
privacy-utility tradeoff

**bigger  $\epsilon$  :**

- (1) weaker privacy
- (2) better utility

$n$ : speech database size

**larger  $n$ :**

- (1) stronger privacy

-> later, we will verify this

# Our Solution - Mechanism

How to design a mechanism achieving our privacy definition?

$$\Pr(\tilde{x}|x_0) \propto e^{-\epsilon d_{\mathcal{X}}(x_0, \tilde{x})}$$

<b>Perturbed</b> <b>Original</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>A</b>	$\propto e^0$	$\propto e^{d(A, B)}$	$\propto e^{d(A, C)}$
<b>B</b>	$\propto e^{d(A, B)}$	$\propto e^0$	$\propto e^{d(B, C)}$
<b>C</b>	$\propto e^{d(A, C)}$	$\propto e^{d(B, C)}$	$\propto e^0$

# Our Solution - Privacy Guarantee

Privacy guarantee of the released private speech database.

**Sensitive Speech database**

Speaker	Speech Data	Attr
A	Record 1	...
B	Record 2	...
C	Record 3	...
...	...	...

Our  
Method



**Anonymized Speech database**

Speaker	Speech Data	Attr
A	Record 1 (with C's voiceprint)	...
B	Record 2 (with A's voiceprint)	...
C	Record 3 (with B's voiceprint)	...
...	...	...

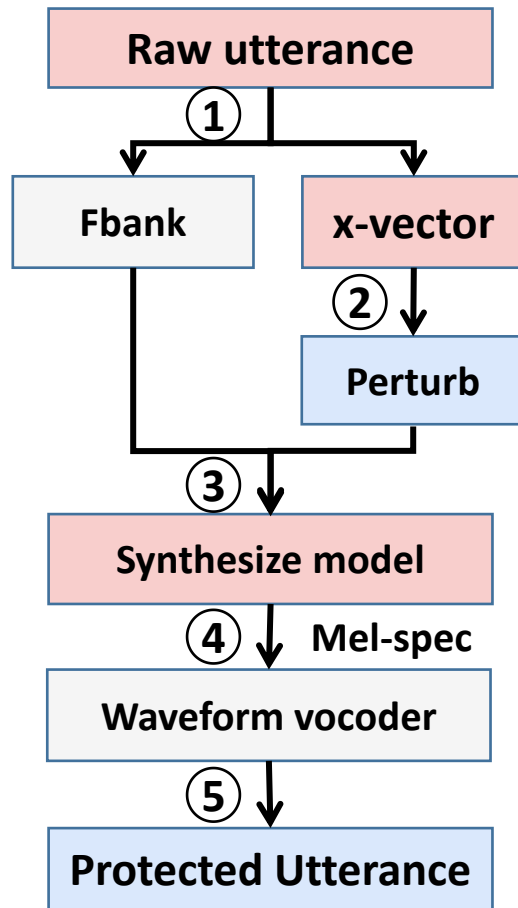
# Our Solution

How to implement frameworks for private speech data release?

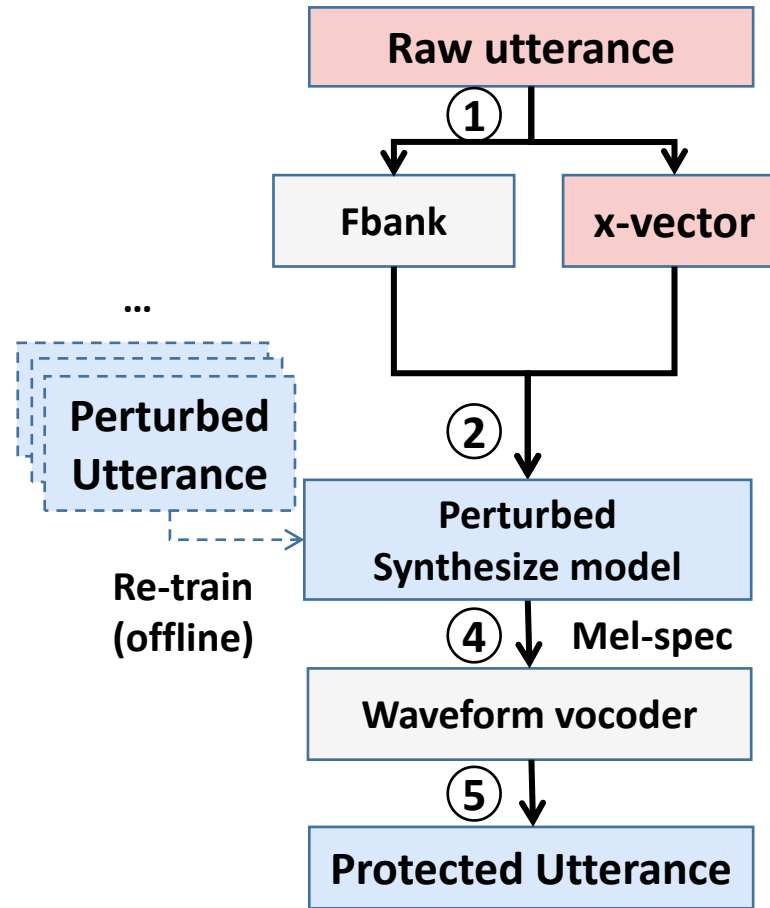
Voiceprint  
extraction  
(unprotected)

Protect  
voiceprint

Reconstruct  
waveform  
(protected)



(a) Feature-level



(b) Model-level

Voiceprint  
extraction  
(unprotected)

Protect  
voiceprint

Reconstruct  
waveform  
(protected)



05

# Experiment and Conclusion

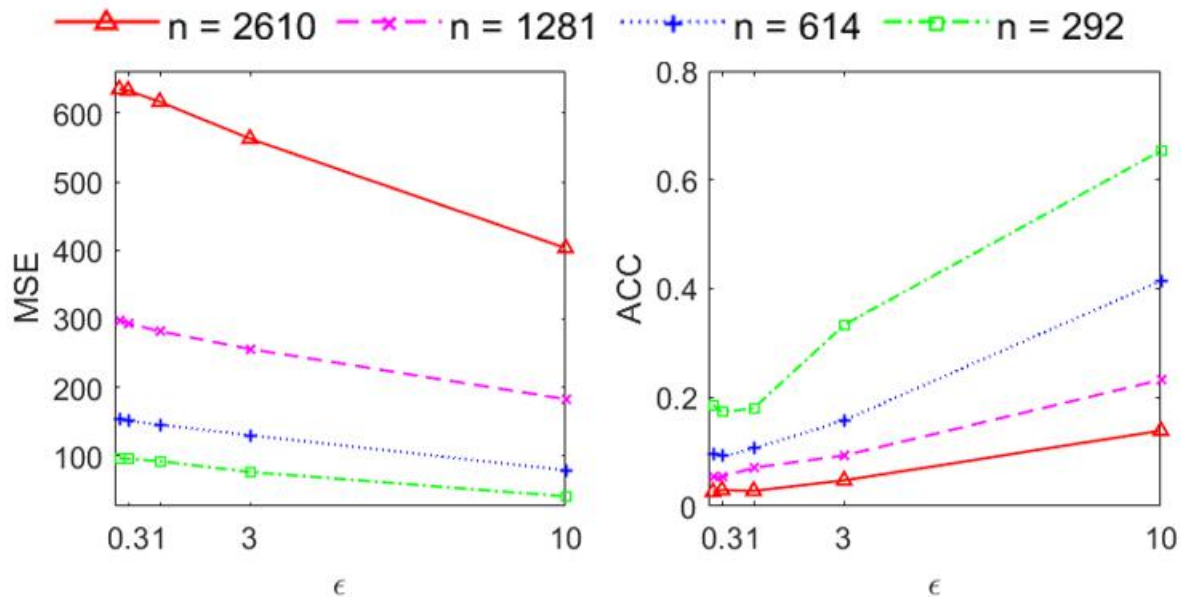
Verify the utility-privacy tradeoff of Voice-Indistinguishability.

- How does the privacy parameter  $\epsilon$  affect the privacy and utility?
- How does the database size  $n$  affect the privacy?

# Experiment

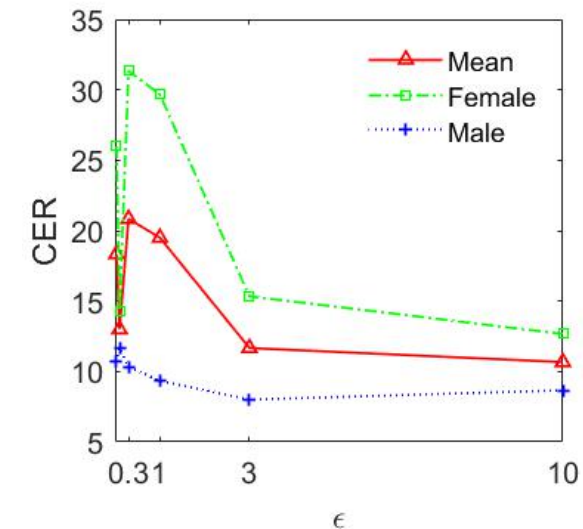
(**Objective** evaluation. )

**Protected** speech data with bigger  $\epsilon$  -> (1) weaker privacy (2) better utility



MSE vs.  $\epsilon$

(PLDA) ACC vs.  $\epsilon$



CER vs.  $\epsilon$

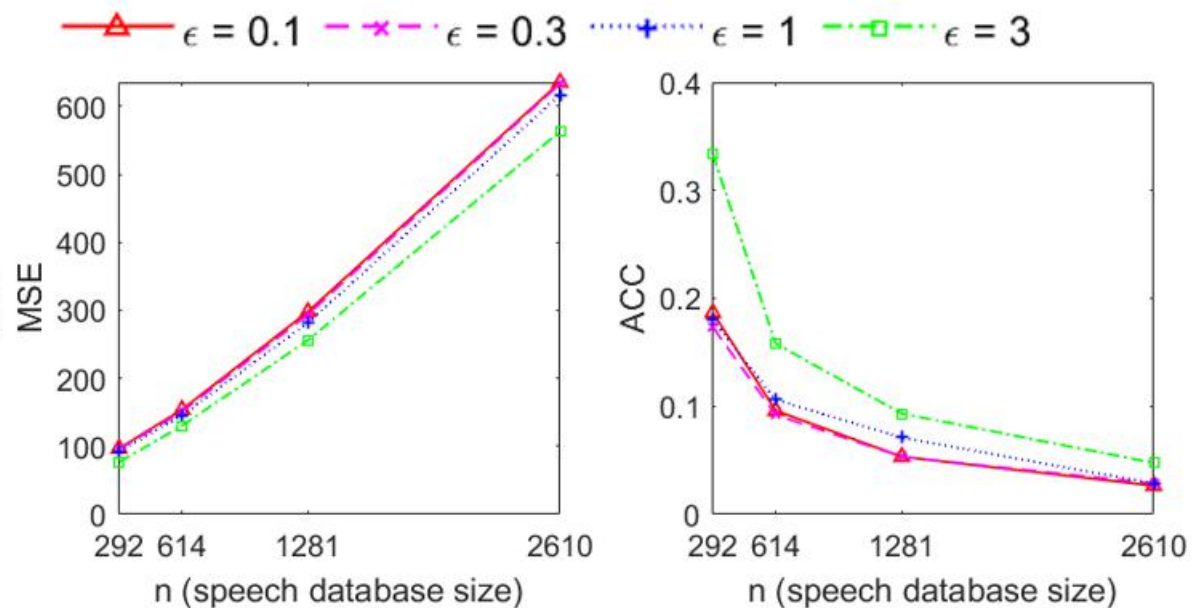
MSE: the difference before and after modification  
lower MSE -> weaker privacy  
(PLDA) ACC: the accuracy of speaker verification  
higher ACC -> weaker privacy

CER: the performance of speech recognition  
lower CER -> better utility

# Experiment

(**Objective** evaluation. )

**Protected** speech data with larger  $n$  -> (1) stronger privacy



MSE vs.  $n$

(PLDA) ACC vs.  $n$

MSE: the difference before and after modification  
lower MSE -> weaker privacy

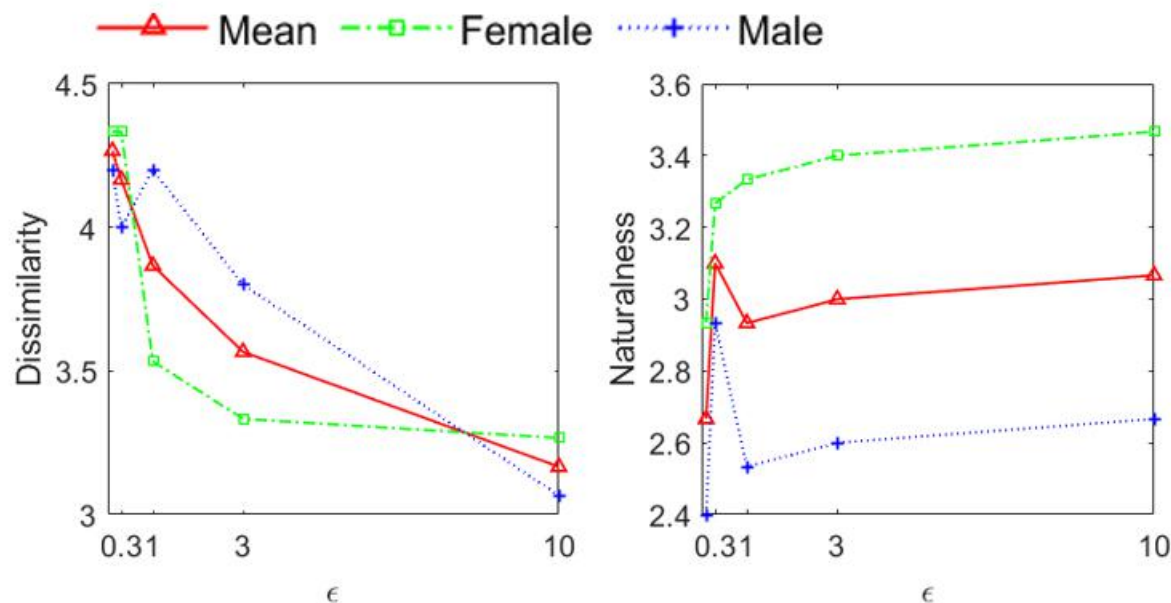
(PLDA) ACC: the accuracy of speaker verification  
higher ACC -> weaker privacy



# Experiment

(Subjective evaluation.) 15 speakers

Protected speech data with bigger  $\epsilon$  -> (1) weaker privacy (2) better utility



Dissimilarity vs.  $\epsilon$

Naturalness vs.  $\epsilon$

Dissimilarity: the voice's differences between and after the modification

lower Dissimilarity -> weaker privacy

Naturalness: the naturalness of sounds that closely resemble the human voice

higher Naturalness -> better utility

### Conclusion:

- Voice-Ind is the first formal privacy notion for voiceprint privacy.
- Our mechanism serves as a primitive to achieve voice-ind.
- Our end-to-end frameworks provide a good privacy-utility trade-off.

### Future Works:

- Apply Voice-ind in Virtual Assistant, speech data processing, etc.
- Extend Voice-Ind for speech content privacy.

*GENERAL OR SPECIFIC? INVESTIGATING EFFECTIVE PRIVACY  
PROTECTION IN  
FEDERATED LEARNING FOR SPEECH EMOTION  
RECOGNITION*

Chao Tan (Kyoto U), Yang Cao (Hokkaido U), Sheng Li (NICT), Masatoshi Yoshikawa (Osaka Seike U)

# Outlines

1. Background

2. Related work

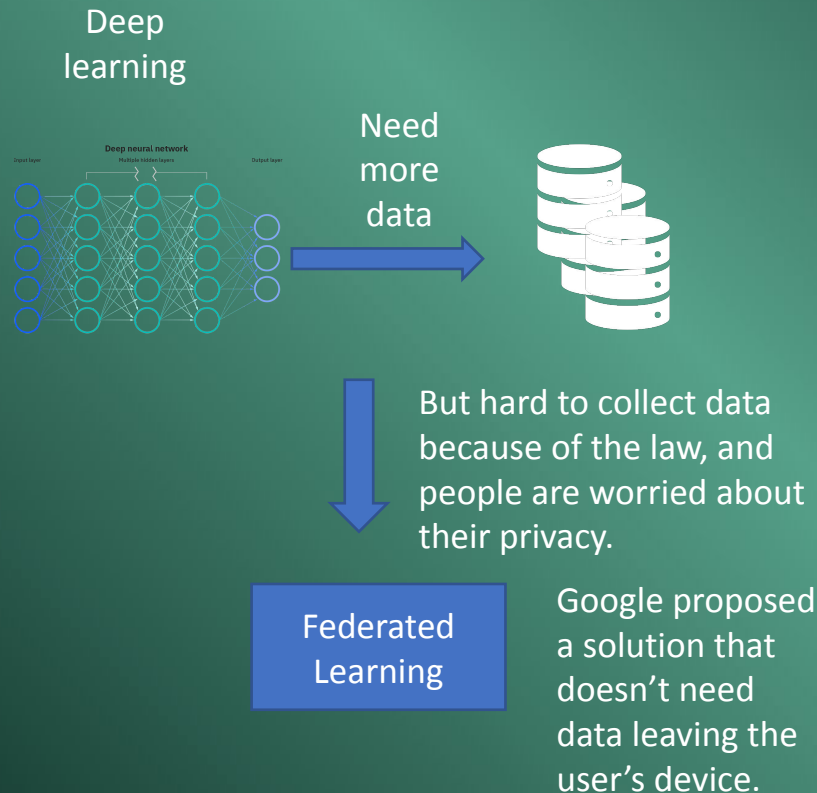
3. Proposed method

4. Empirical analysis

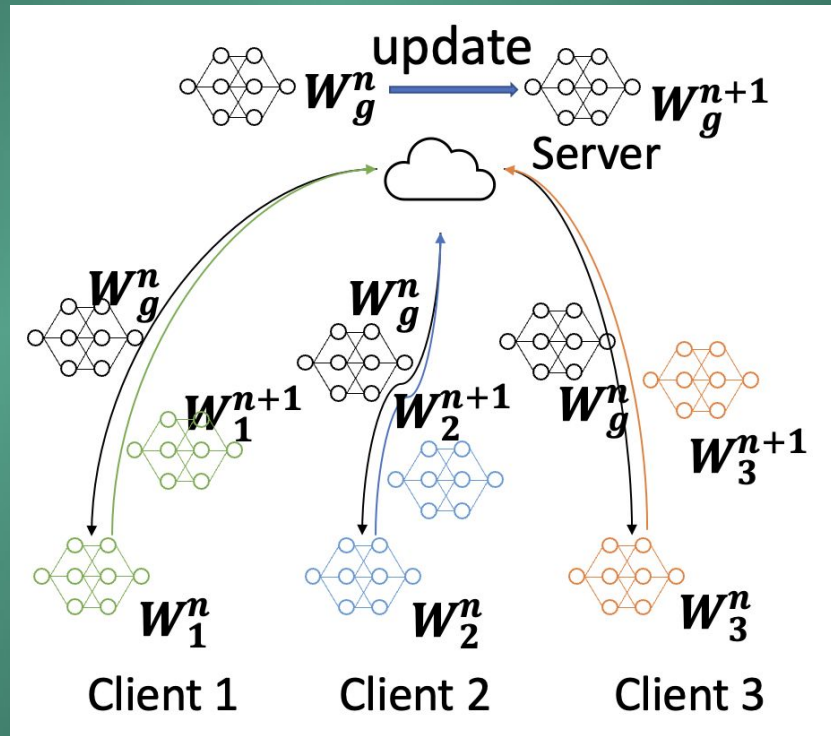
5. Conclusion and future work

# Collecting data is harder

- Deep learning needs much more data.
- It is hard to collect data because of the law and the privacy awareness of people.
- Federated learning [1] doesn't need to collect data.



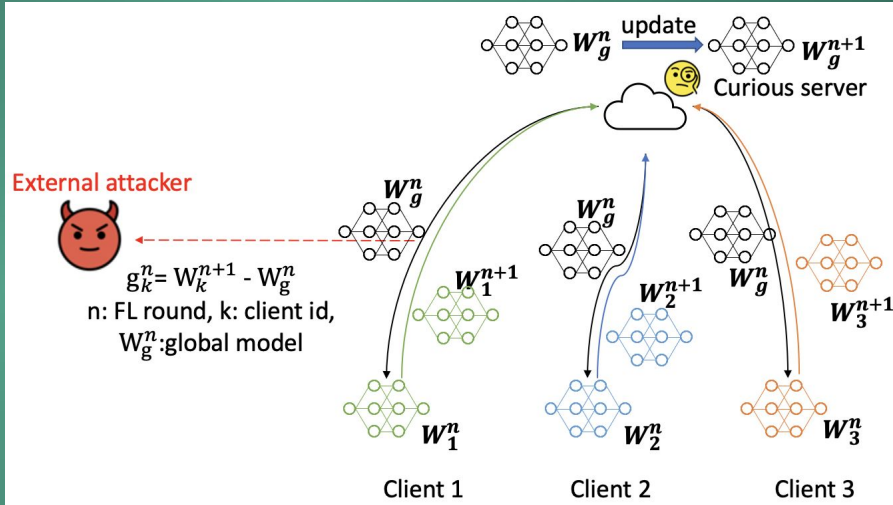
[1] Konečný J, McMahan H B, Yu F X, et al. Federated learning: Strategies for improving communication efficiency[J]. arXiv preprint arXiv:1610.05492, 2016.



## Preliminary of FL [1]

- A cycle of federated learning
  - 1. Server generates a global model  $W_g^n$
  - 2. Server distributes global model to clients.
  - 3. clients do local training and update local models to server.
  - 4. server updates global model according to these local models.
- Clients' data has never left local device.
- FL still not totally safe.

# Preliminary of attack in FL



- FL does not provide strict privacy protection and still have privacy problem. [2, 3]
- Curious server and external attacker might threaten privacy.
- We focus on the Property Inference attack.

[2] Lyu L, Yu H, Yang Q. Threats to federated learning: A survey[J]. arXiv preprint arXiv:2003.02133, 2020.

[3] Melis L, Song C, De Cristofaro E, et al. Exploiting unintended feature leakage in collaborative learning[C]//2019 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP). IEEE, 2019: 691-706.

# Motivation of this work

Knowledge gap on effectiveness  
between different privacy  
protection methods

- There are general methods (UDP) and specific designed methods (Voice-Ind, Gender-Ind).
- General or Specific design?
- No study told us which one is better in speech-federated learning.



Which one better?

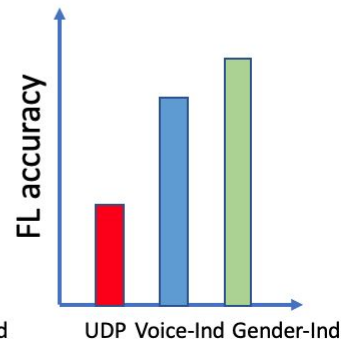
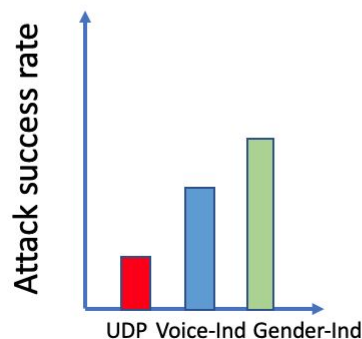
UDP



Voice-Ind



Gender-Ind





# Outlines

1. Background

2. Related work

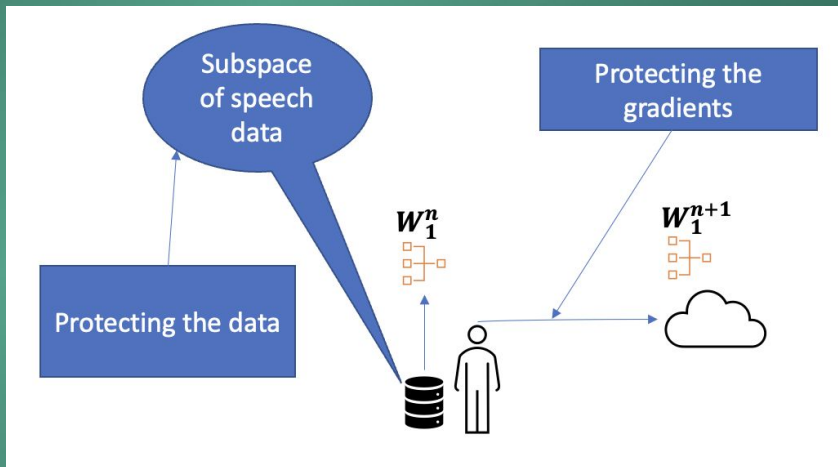
3. Proposed method

4. Empirical analysis

5. Conclusion and future work

# Two kinds of protection methods

- General method:
  - User-level Differential Privacy (UDP) [4]
- Specific method:
  - Voice-indistinguishability (Voice-Ind) [5]

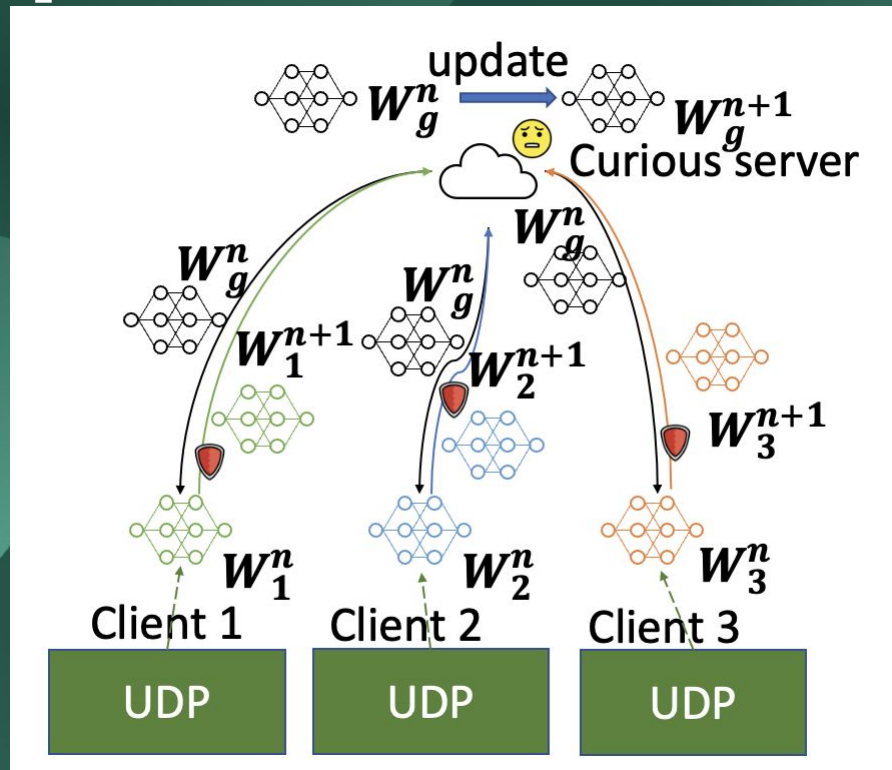


[4] Feng T, Peri R, Narayanan S. User-Level Differential Privacy against Attribute Inference Attack of Speech Emotion Recognition in Federated Learning[J]. arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.02500, 2022.

[5] Han Y, Li S, Cao Y, et al. Voice-indistinguishability: Protecting voiceprint in privacy-preserving speech data release[C]//2020 IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME). IEEE, 2020: 1-6.

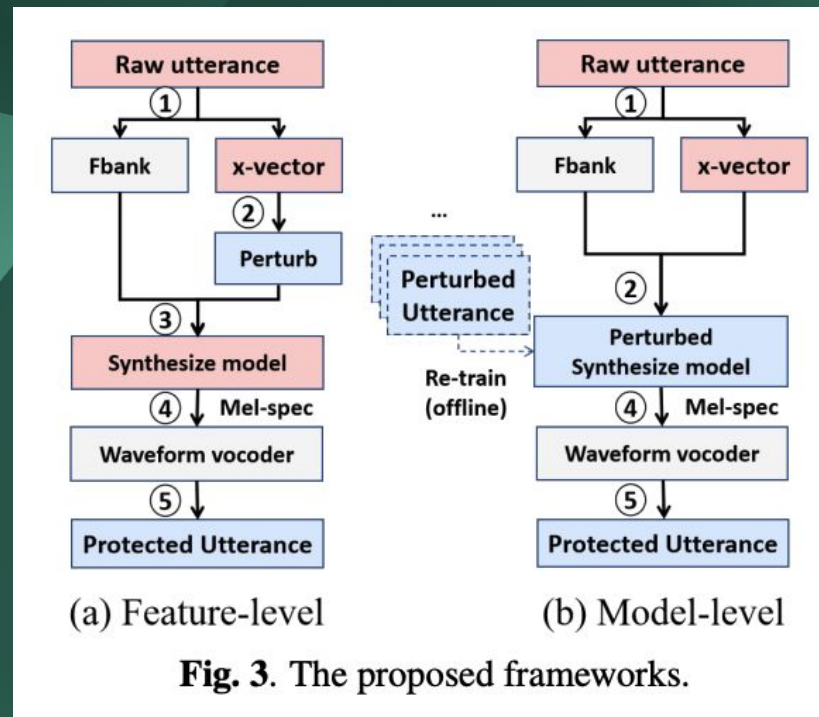
# UDP (User-level DP) [4]

- Step 1: Obtain parameters  $\mathbf{w}_i$  through local training.
- Step 2: Perturb gradients  $\mathbf{w}_i$  according to LDP parameter  $(\epsilon_i, \delta_i)$  and some other factors to get  $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_i$ .
- Step 3: Upload parameters  $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_i$ .



# Voice-Indistinguishability [5]

- Step 1: Separate raw utterance  $s$  to Fbank  $f$  and x-vector  $x$ .
- Step 2: Change x-vector  $x$  to  $\tilde{x}$  with a probability according to the cosine distance between  $x$  and x-vectors in pool  $\mathcal{X}_p$ .
- Step 3: Synthesis utterance  $\tilde{s}$  with Fbank  $f$  and perturbed x-vector  $\tilde{x}$ .



**Fig. 3.** The proposed frameworks.

# Outlines

1. Background

2. Related work

3. Proposed method

4. Empirical analysis

5. Conclusion and future work

# Privacy notion: Gender-Indistinguishability (Gender-Ind)

- A mechanism  $\mathcal{M}_g$  satisfies  $\epsilon$ -Gender-Indistinguishability if for any output gender embedding  $\tilde{h}$  and any two possible input  $h, h' \in \mathcal{H}$ :

$$\frac{\Pr(\mathcal{M}_g(h) = \tilde{h})}{\Pr(\mathcal{M}_g(h') = \tilde{h})} \leq e^{\epsilon d_{\mathcal{H}}(h, h')}$$

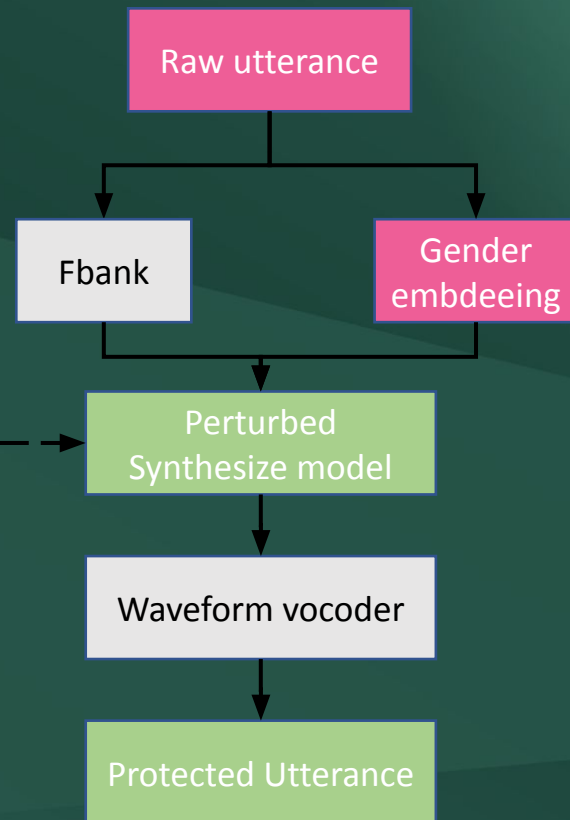
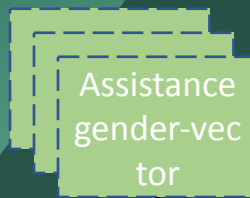
where  $\mathcal{H}$  is a set of gender embedding in public datasets,  $d_{\mathcal{H}}(h, h')$  represents the angular distance between  $h$  and  $h'$ .



# Gender embedding protection method

- Step 1: Separate raw utterance  $s$  to Fbank  $f$  and gender embedding  $h$ .
- Step 2: Change gender embedding  $h$  to  $\tilde{h}$  with a probability according to the angular distance between  $h$  and gender embedding in pool  $\mathcal{H}_p$ .
- Step 3: Synthesis utterance  $\tilde{s}$  with Fbank  $f$  and perturbed gender embedding  $\tilde{h}$ .

$$\Pr(\mathcal{M}_g(h_0) = \tilde{h}) \propto e^{-\epsilon d_{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{h}, h_0)}$$



# Outlines

1. Background

2. Related work

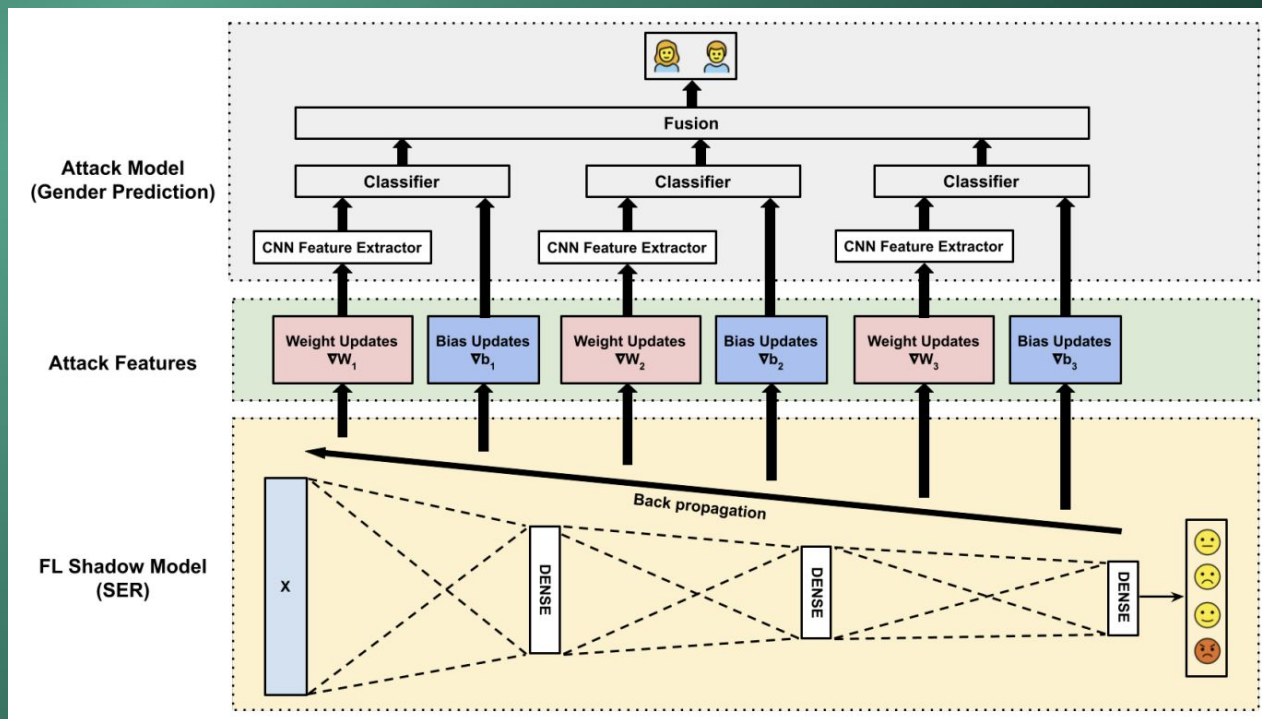
3. Proposed method

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# Specific FL and attack

- FL: SER model
- Attack: Steal personal information (gender, age) from gradients of SER-FL



Framework of FL and Attack Model [6]

# Attack model success rate and FL accuracy (without protection)

**Table 1.** The success rate of attack and accuracy of FL-SER model without protections. (ACC: Accuracy; UAR: Unweighted Average Recall; Fold: training subsets, the random factors to order user's data; SR: Success Rate; UASR: Unweighted Average Success Recall)

	Attack model		FL-SER model	
	SR	UASR	ACC	UAR
Fold1	0.837	0.829	0.663	0.595
Fold2	0.847	0.838	0.666	0.601
Fold3	0.817	0.791	0.656	0.619

$$ACC = \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{true}}{\text{predited}_{true}} * \frac{\text{real}_{true}}{\text{total}} + \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{false}}{\text{predited}_{false}} * \frac{\text{real}_{false}}{\text{total}}$$

$$UAR = \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{true}}{\text{predited}_{true}} + \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{false}}{\text{predited}_{false}}$$

$$SR = \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{male}}{\text{predited}_{male}} * \frac{\text{real}_{male}}{\text{total}} + \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{female}}{\text{predited}_{female}} * \frac{\text{real}_{female}}{\text{total}}$$

$$UASR = \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{male}}{\text{predited}_{male}} + \frac{\text{preditedReal}_{female}}{\text{predited}_{female}}$$

# Comparison between protection methods for FL

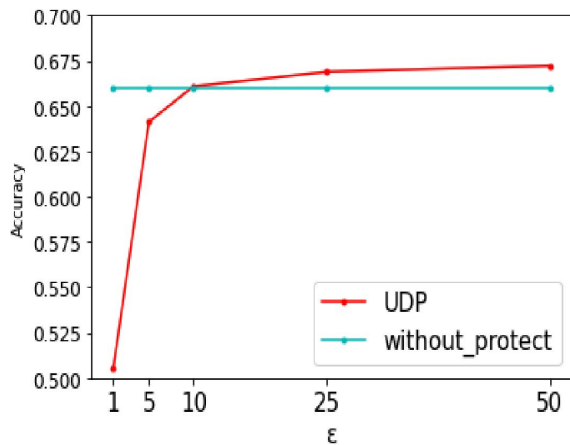


Figure 12: The accuracy of FL-SER model with UDP

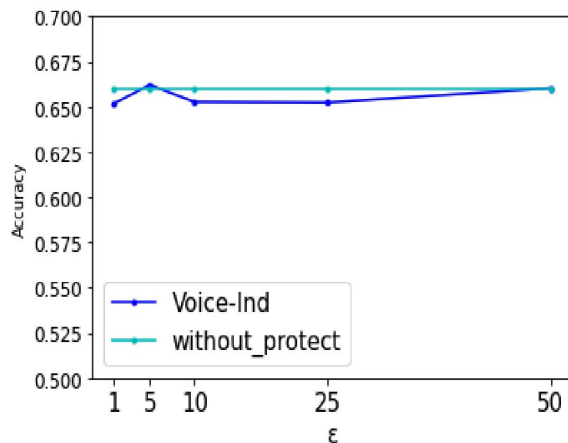


Figure 13: The accuracy of FL-SER model with Voice-Ind

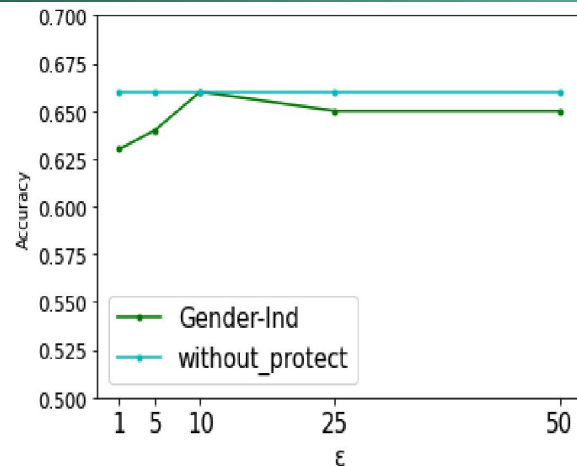
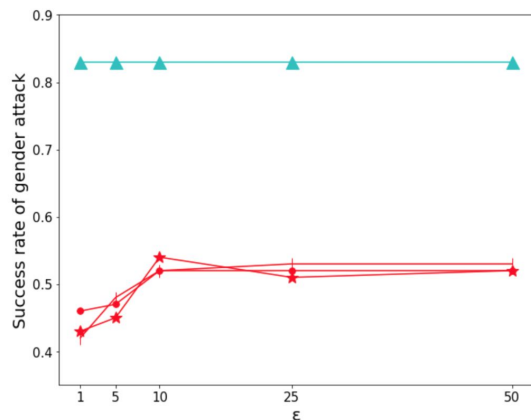


Figure 14: The accuracy of FL-SER model with Gender-Ind

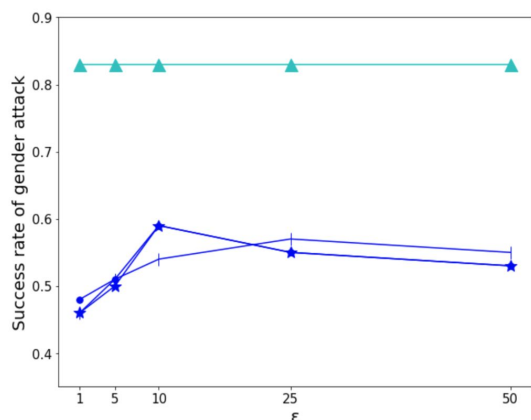
FL accuracy

Voice-Ind and Gender-Ind have better model accuracy than UDP

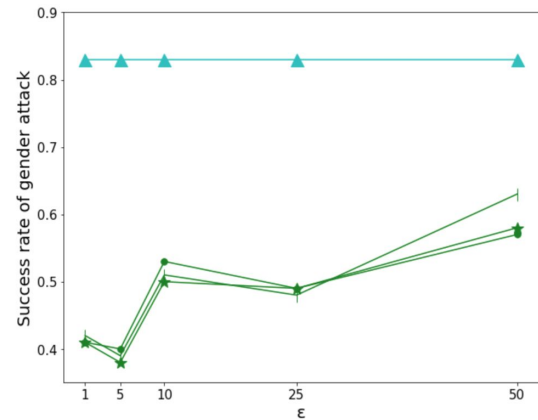
# Comparison between protection methods for gender attack



Without\_Protect  
UDP\_sample5  
UDP\_sample10  
UDP\_sample100



Without\_Protect  
Voice-Ind\_sample5  
Voice-Ind\_sample10  
Voice-Ind\_sample100



Without\_Protect  
GenderInd\_sample\_5  
GenderInd\_sample\_10  
GenderInd\_sample\_100

Figure 9: The success rate of gender attack model with UDP

Figure 10: The success rate of gender attack model with Voice-Ind

Figure 11: The success rate of gender attack model with Gender-Ind

## Gender Attack model success rate

all of them decrease the attacker's success rate to around 50%, which is similar to a random guess



# Outlines

1. Background

2. Related work

3. Proposed method

4. Empirical analysis

5. Conclusion and future work

# Conclusion and future work

- Conclusion
  - Specifically, designed protection method gives better effectiveness in speech-FL.
- Future work
  - Expanded gender-Ind to attribute-Ind.

# Outline

- Scenario and Motivation
  - why we need to formalize speech privacy?
- A brief history of privacy definitions
  - from k-Anonymity to Differential Privacy
- Our Studies for Formalizing Speech Privacy
  - **[ICME20]** Voice-Indistinguishability
  - **[ICASSP23]** General or Specific? Investigating Effective Speech Privacy Protection in Federated Learning for Speech Emotion Recognition
- Open Problems and Future Directions

# Open Problems and Future Directions

- Theory of Speech Privacy
  - How to formalize privacy metrics for different types of “secrets” in speech processing?
  - Is there a Composition Theorem for speech privacy?
- Practice of Speech Privacy
  - How to understand the connection between Formal Privacy Metrics and Practical Attacks (i.e., Membership Inference Attacks, Gradient Reconstruction Attacks, etc).
  - How to define advanced private mechanisms for Formal Privacy Metrics (instead of using the building blocks like Laplace mechanisms)?

# Acknowledgement

- The above two studies were primarily contributed by my collaborators and former students:
  - Dr. Sheng LI (NICT)
  - Yaowei HAN (Master student at Kyoto U) - ICME20
  - Chao TAN (Master student at Kyoto U) - ICASSP20
  - Prof. Masatoshi YOSHIKAWA (Osaka Seikei U)
  - Prof. Qiang MA (Kyoto Institute of Technology)

**Thanks** 😊

**Q&A** ?

**Looking forward to Collaborating on Speech Privacy** 🤝