

Are PETs and Algorithmic Accountability at loggerheads?

Anders Dalskov & Kris Shrishak

HotPETs 2023

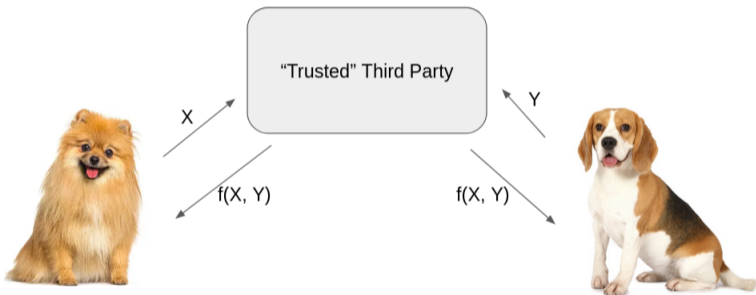


MPC

Secure Multiparty Computation (MPC) is the PET of choice for this talk

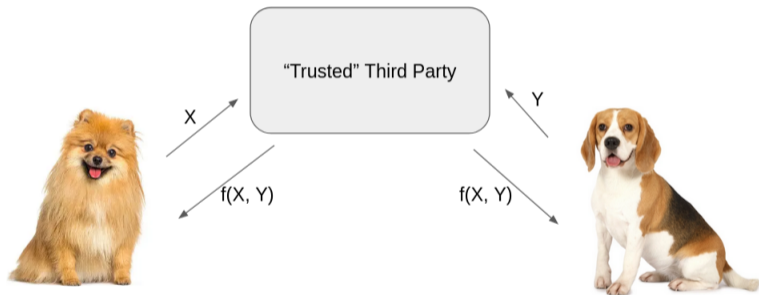
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Clearly private and correct, provided the "trusted" third party is actually trusted

MPC

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Provides the same guarantees as if there was a trusted party :)

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Practicality depends on the flavour. e.g.,

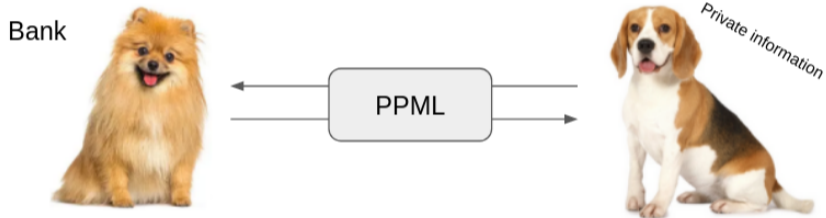
for example, the timings range from 110 seconds for passive honest-majority computation to 28,000 seconds for active dishonest-majority computation.

MPC and ML = PPML

Let's consider an realistic application of PPML

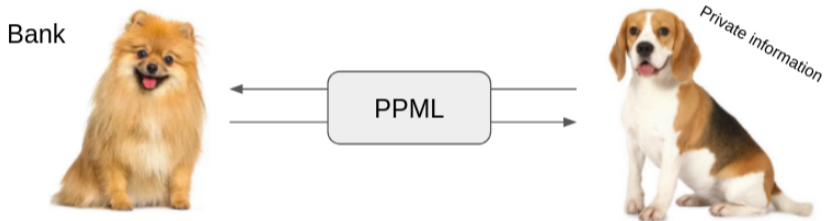
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The customer doesn't trust the bank with all its private information, so it resorts to PPML.

Algorithmic Accountability (AA)

Algorithmic Accountability is about an obligation to report, explain or justify the outputs of an algorithm¹

¹www.fatml.org/resources/principles-for-accountable-algorithms

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“The algorithm did it” is not an acceptable response when the “AI” misbehaves

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If we're not careful, AI recruitment could institutionalise discrimination

A.I. has a discrimination problem. In banking, the consequences can be severe

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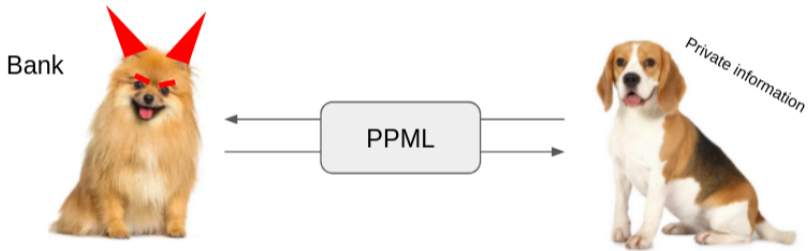
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Certainly, MPC helps if we wish to protect privacy.

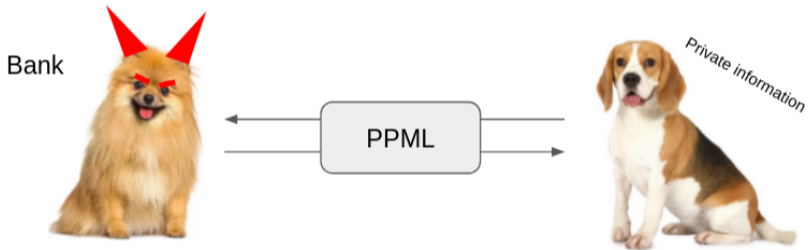
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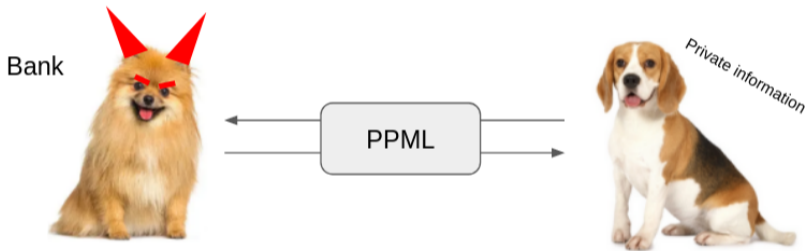
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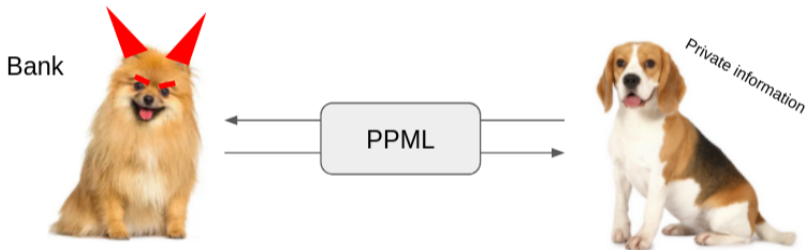
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But what if the goal of the adversary is to discriminate against the customer?

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We now have to perform a secure computation that does

$$y = \text{EvalButOnlyIfModellsGoodAccordingToGoodThatAgreesWithThreatModel}([M], [x])$$

Prior research

The apparent clash between privacy and AA have been observed before

- ▶ *An Adversarial Perspective on Accuracy, Robustness, Fairness, and Privacy: Multilateral-Tradeoffs in Trustworthy ML* (IEEE Access 2022)
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And others attack this issue, but from the “wrong” direction

- ▶ *Planting Undetectable Backdoors in Machine Learning Models* (FOCS 2022)

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- ▶ Is this an MPC issue, or does it apply to other PETs? Are some PETs “immune” to this problem?
- ▶ Do PETs, specifically in the context of PPML, fail if they cannot also facilitate AA?
- ▶ Is this a PPML only issue?