



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization with Distributed Exploration

Zhongxiang Dai¹

Bryan Kian Hsiang Low¹

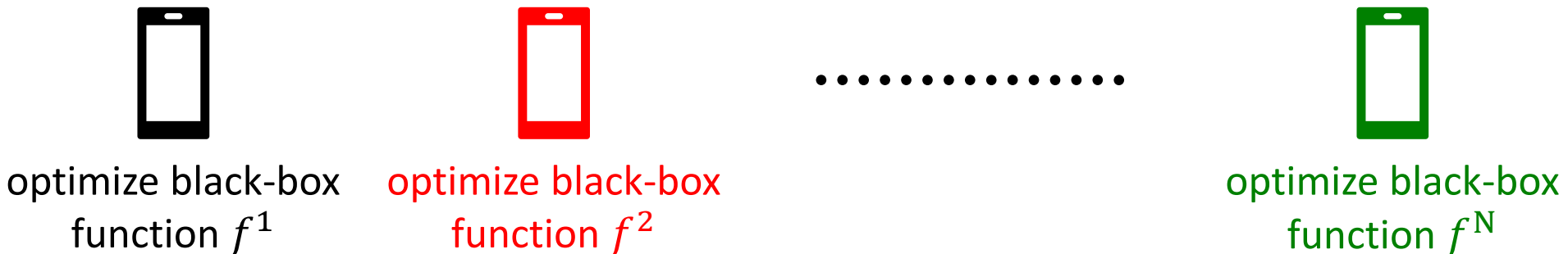
Patrick Jaillet²

¹ Department of Computer Science, National University of Singapore

² Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

- **Bayesian optimization** (BO) has been extended to the federated setting, yielding the **federated Thompson sampling (FTS)** algorithm (Dai et. al., 2020)
- **FTS** facilitates collaborative black-box optimization **without sharing raw data**:
 - Multiple **mobile phone users** can collaborate to optimize the hyperparameters of their deep neural networks for a smart keyboard
 - Multiple **hospitals** can collaborate to select patients for performing a medical test



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

- **Rigorous privacy preservation** has been an important consideration for both federated learning (FL) and BO.
- However, **the FTS algorithm** (Dai et. al., 2020) is **not** equipped with a rigorous preservation of the privacy of the users/agents.

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Differential Privacy

- **Differential Privacy (DP)** has been widely used in privacy-preserving ML
 - DP-SGD: adding DP to the training of DNN
 - **DP-FedAvg**: adding DP to FL to preserve the **user-level privacy**

An adversary cannot infer whether a user has participated in the algorithm

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Differential Privacy

- **Differential Privacy (DP)** has been widely used in privacy-preserving ML
 - DP-SGD: adding DP to the training of DNN
 - **DP-FedAvg**: adding DP to FL to preserve the **user-level privacy**

An adversary cannot infer whether a user has participated in the algorithm

- An algorithm satisfying **user-level (ϵ, δ) -DP** ensures that adding/removing any single user has an imperceptible impact on its output.
- Smaller ϵ and δ indicate a better privacy guarantee

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Differential Privacy

- Both DP-SGD and DP-FedAvg follow a general framework for **adding DP to generic iterative algorithms**
 - Apply a **subsampled Gaussian mechanism** in every iteration



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Further Improve Utility via Distributed Exploration

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Further Improve Utility via Distributed Exploration

- The general DP framework is able to handle **different parameter vectors**
 - E.g., parameters from different layers of a DNN

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

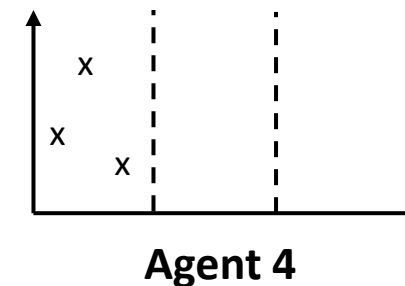
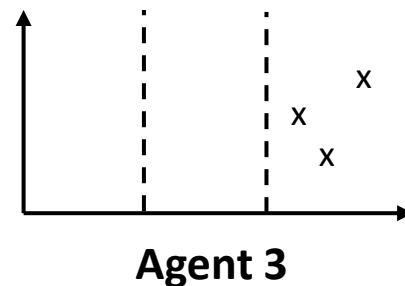
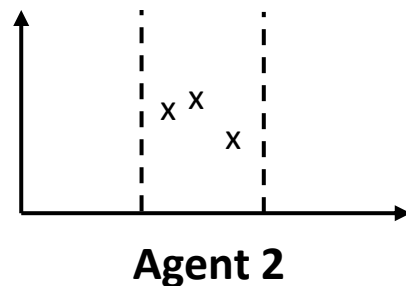
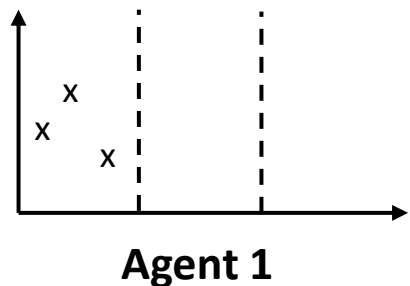
Further Improve Utility via Distributed Exploration

- The general DP framework is able to handle **different parameter vectors**
 - E.g., parameters from different layers of a DNN

+ local modelling for BO

Distributed Exploration (DE)
(at initialization)

smaller local sub-regions
↓
improves modelling of GP surrogate
↓
better performances



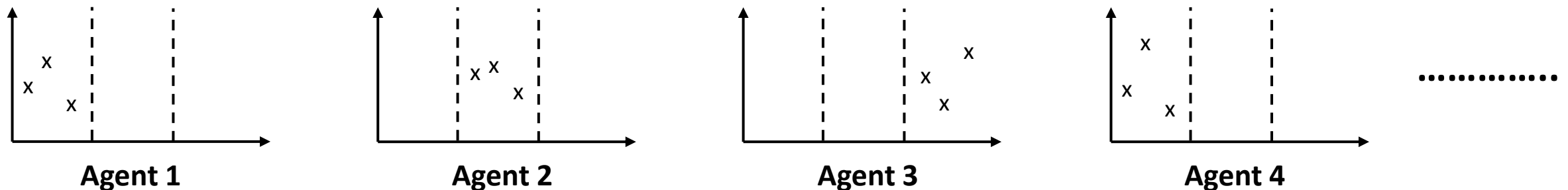
.....

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Further Improve Utility via Distributed Exploration

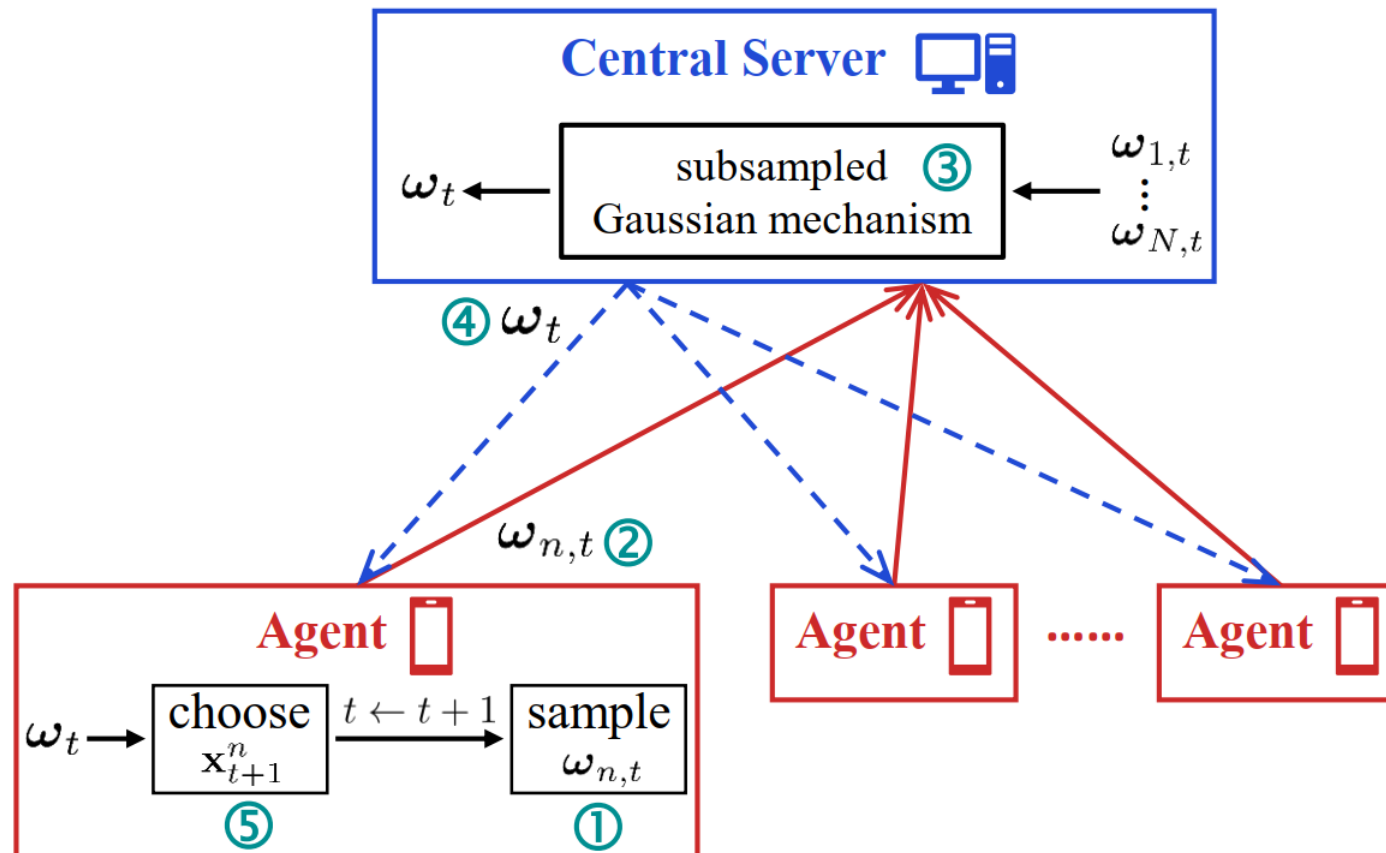
- The general DP framework is able to handle **different parameter vectors**
 - E.g., parameters from different layers of a DNN

+ local modelling for BO



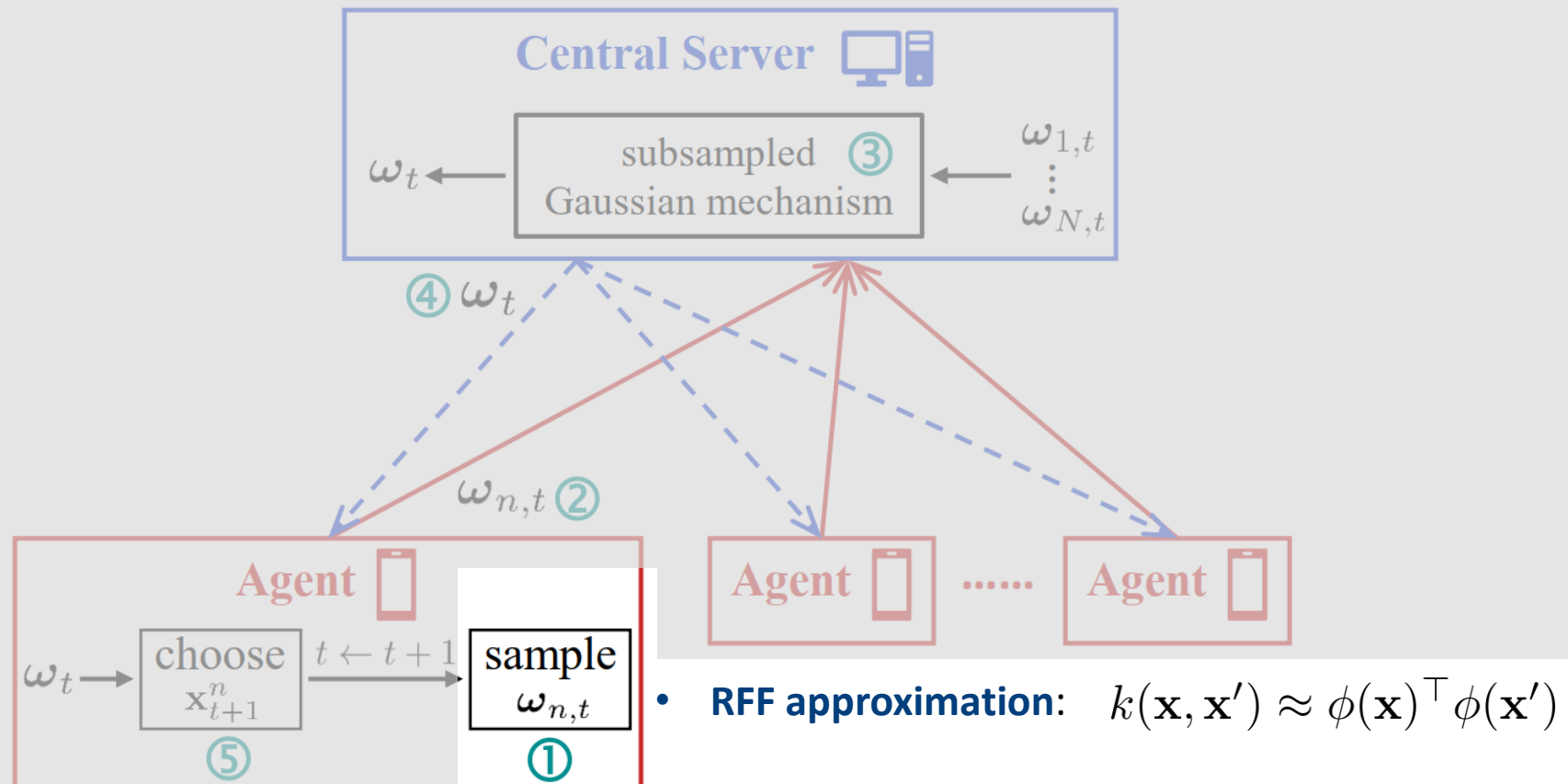
Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)



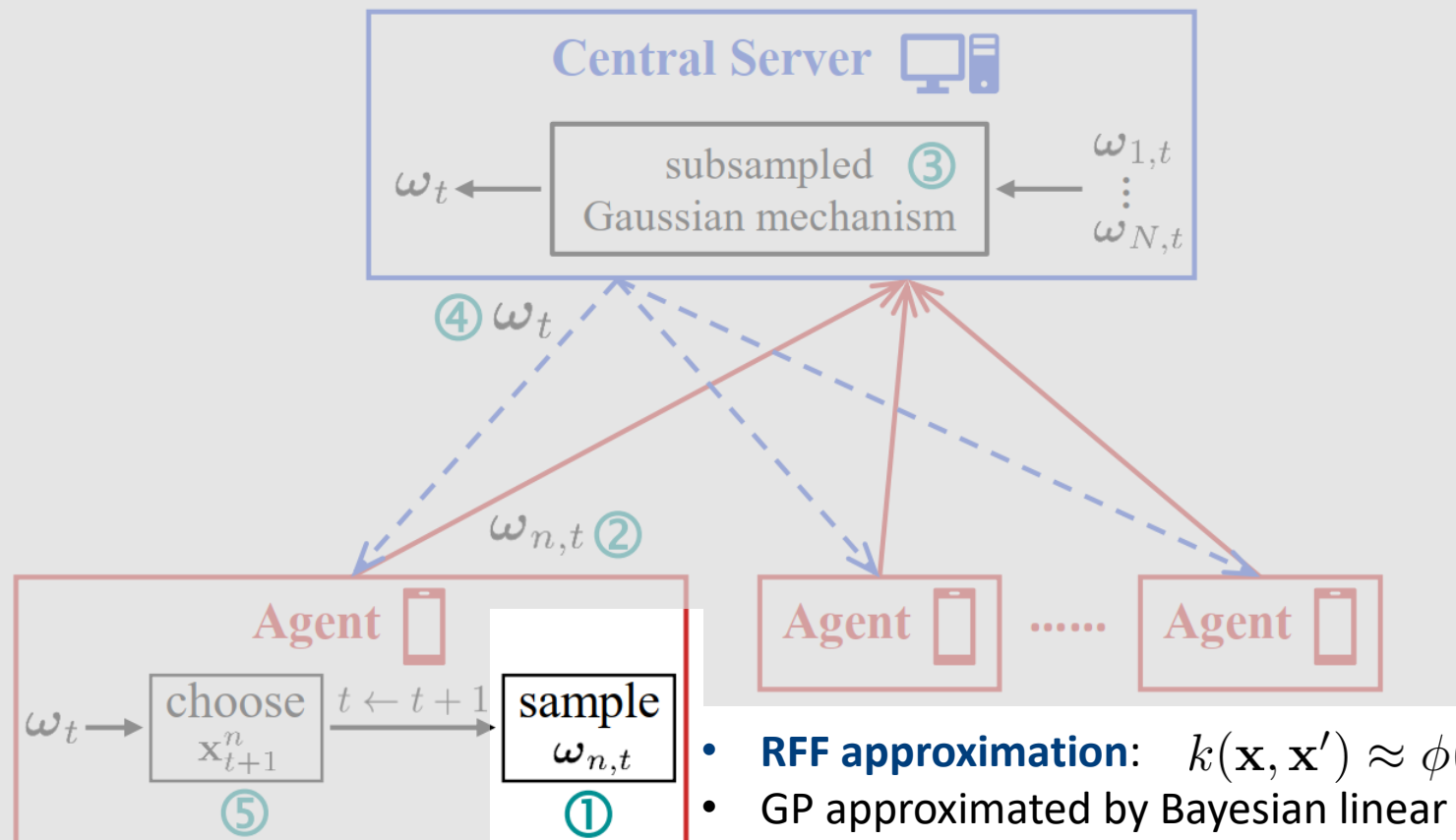
Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

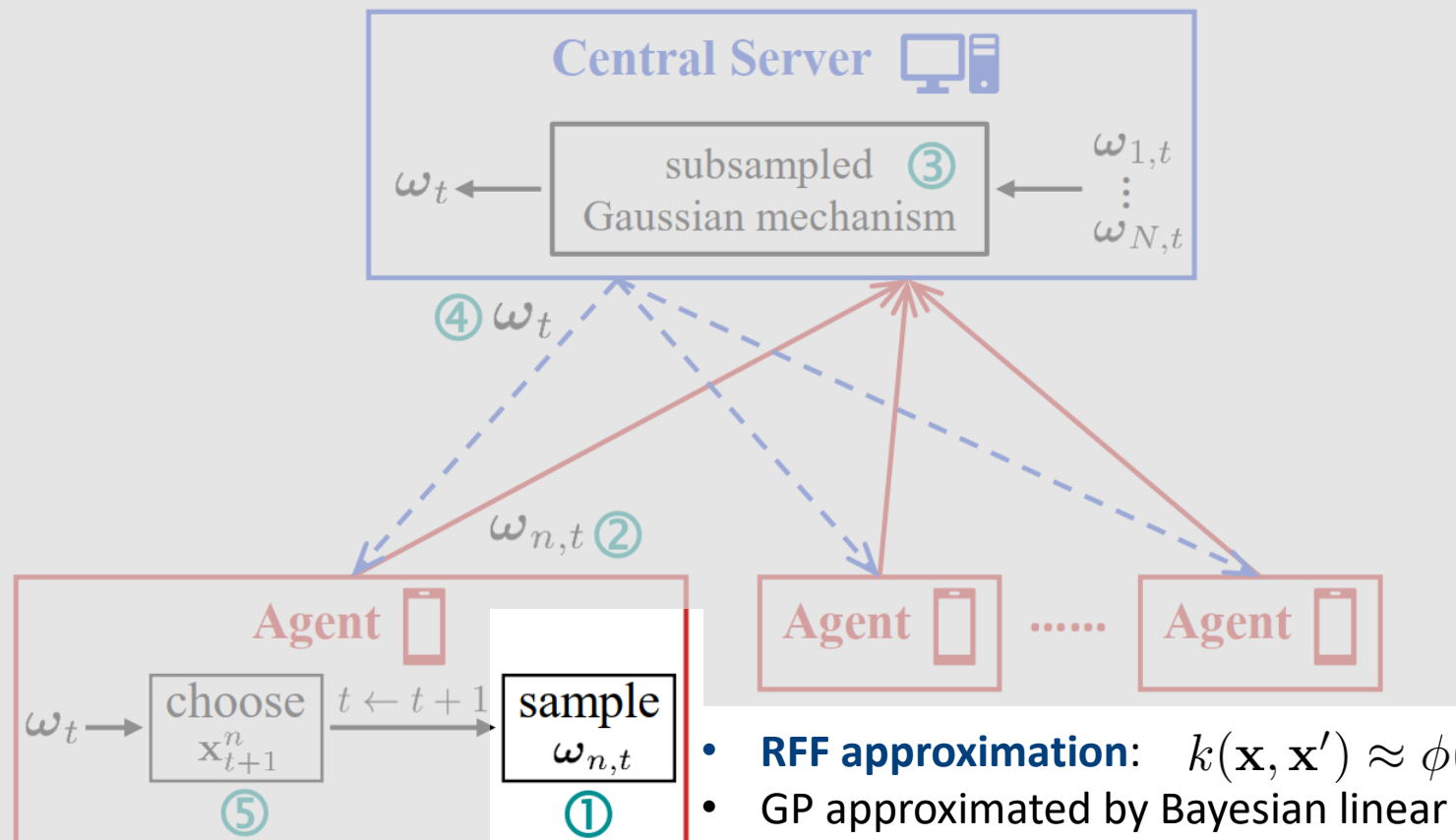
DP-FTS (without DE)



- **RFF approximation:** $k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \approx \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \phi(\mathbf{x}')$
- GP approximated by Bayesian linear model: $f(\mathbf{x}) \approx \boxed{\phi(\mathbf{x})}^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}$

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

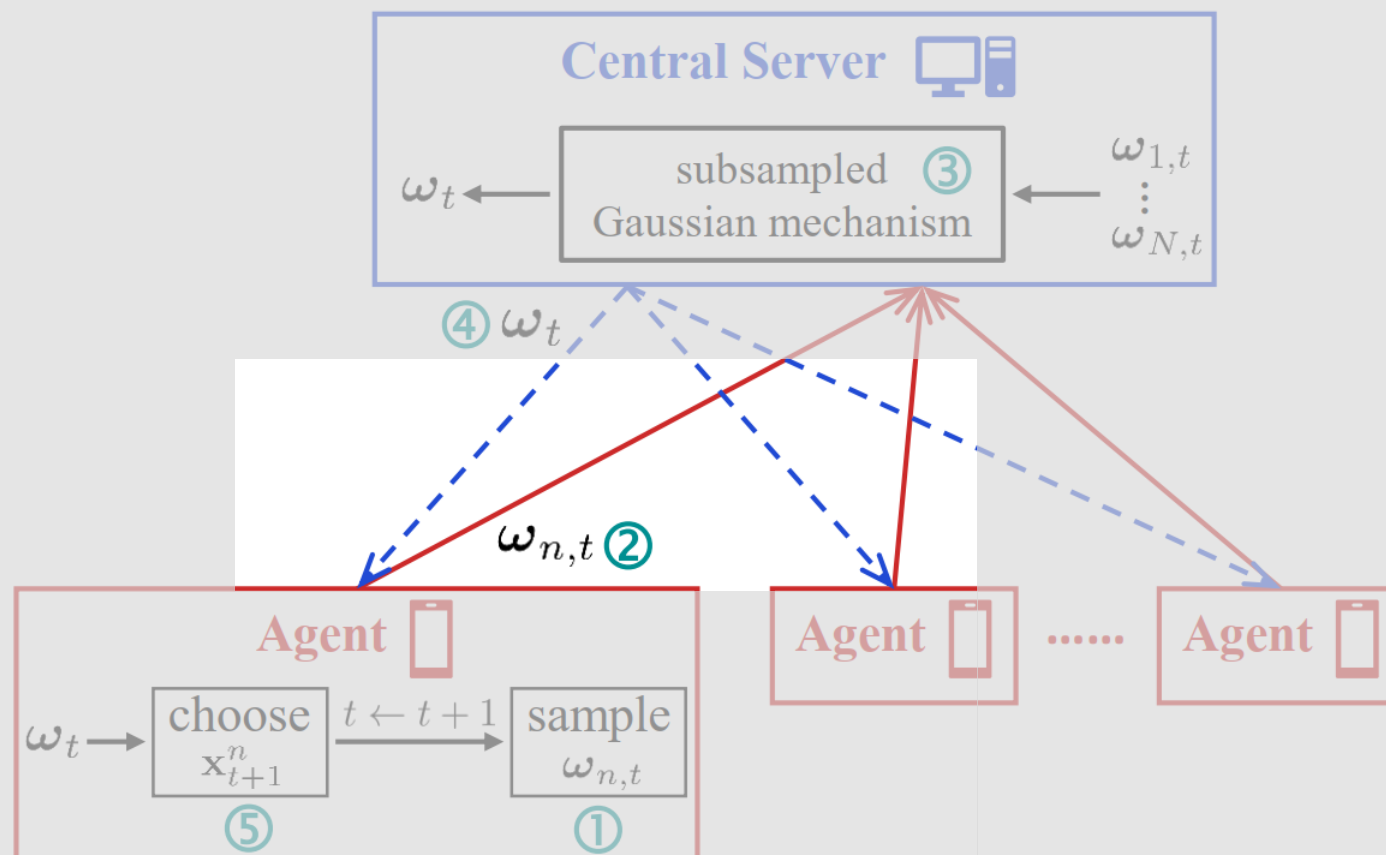
DP-FTS (without DE)



- **RFF approximation:** $k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \approx \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \phi(\mathbf{x}')$
- GP approximated by Bayesian linear model: $f(\mathbf{x}) \approx \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}$
- Given observations $(\mathbf{x}_1^n, y_1^n), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_t^n, y_t^n)$, sample $\omega_{n,t}$ from **posterior of $\boldsymbol{\omega}$** (sampled function: $f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \omega_{n,t}$)

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

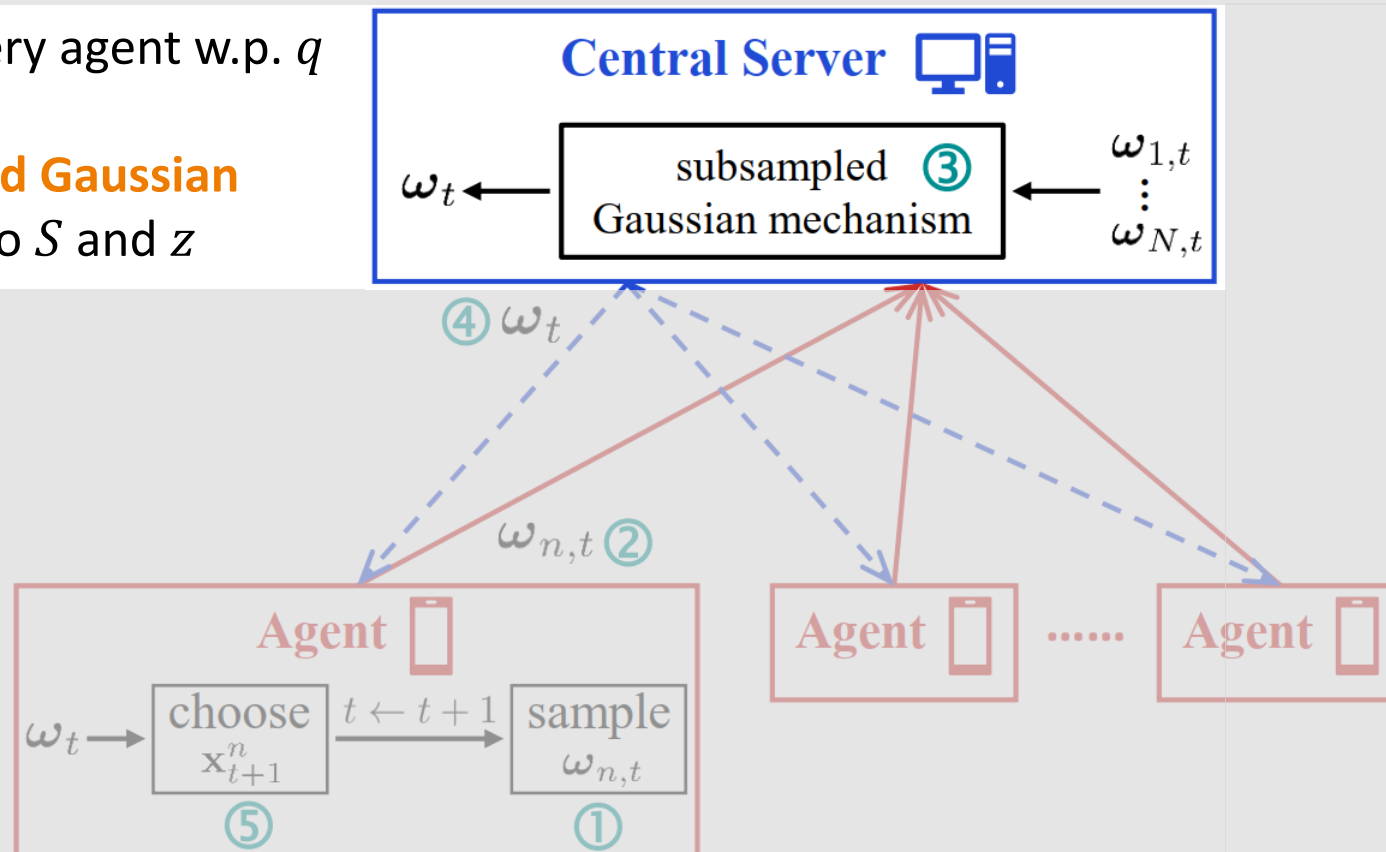
DP-FTS (without DE)



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

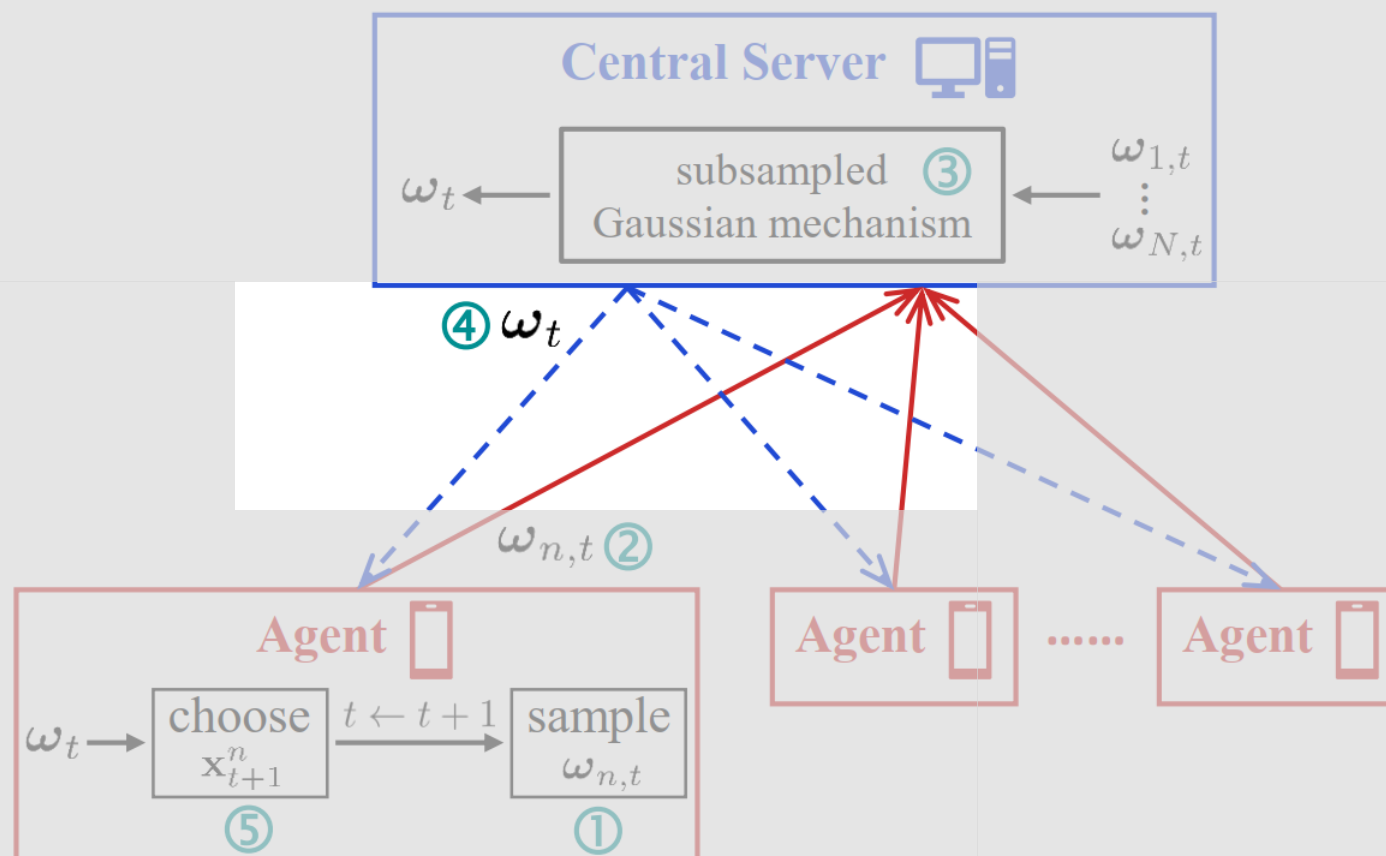
DP-FTS (without DE)

1. **Subsample**: select every agent w.p. q
2. **Clip**: $\|\omega_{1,n}\|_2 \leq S$
3. **Weighted average, add Gaussian noise** with std. prop. to S and z



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

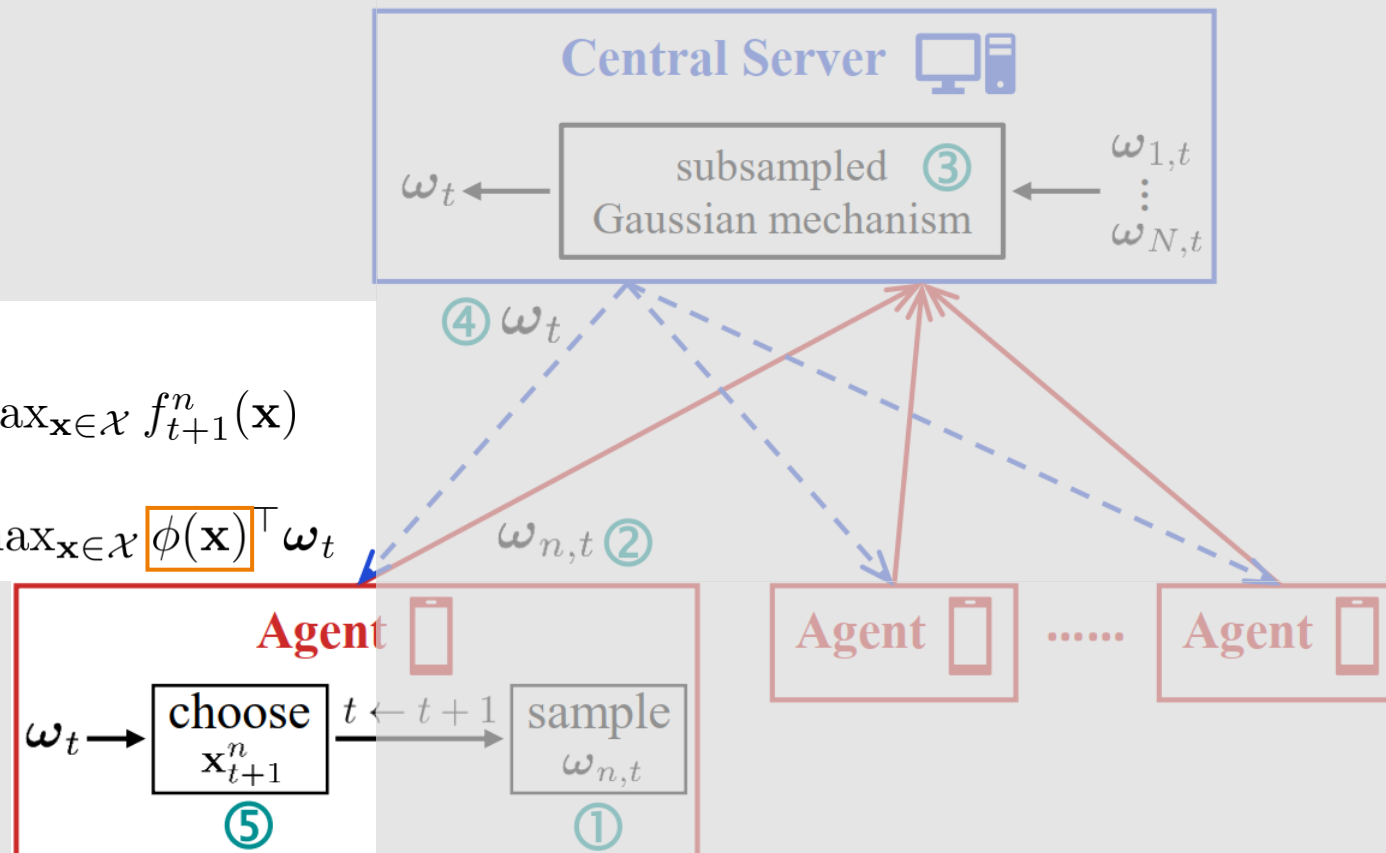
DP-FTS (without DE)



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)

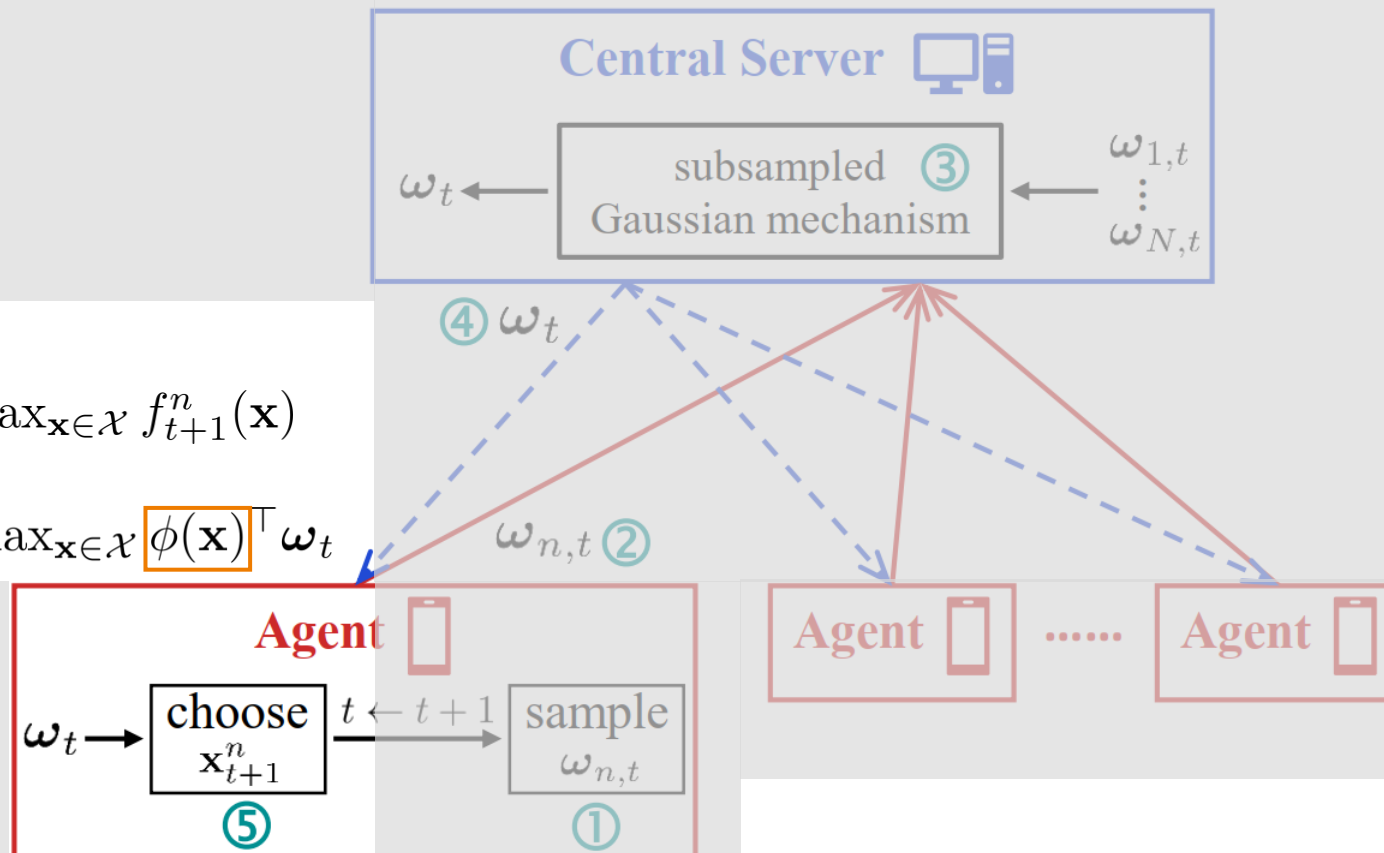
- With probability p_t :
 - Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f_{t+1}^n(\mathbf{x})$
- With probability $1 - p_t$:
 - Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}_t$



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)

- With probability p_t :
- Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f_{t+1}^n(\mathbf{x})$
- With probability $1 - p_t$:
- Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}_t$



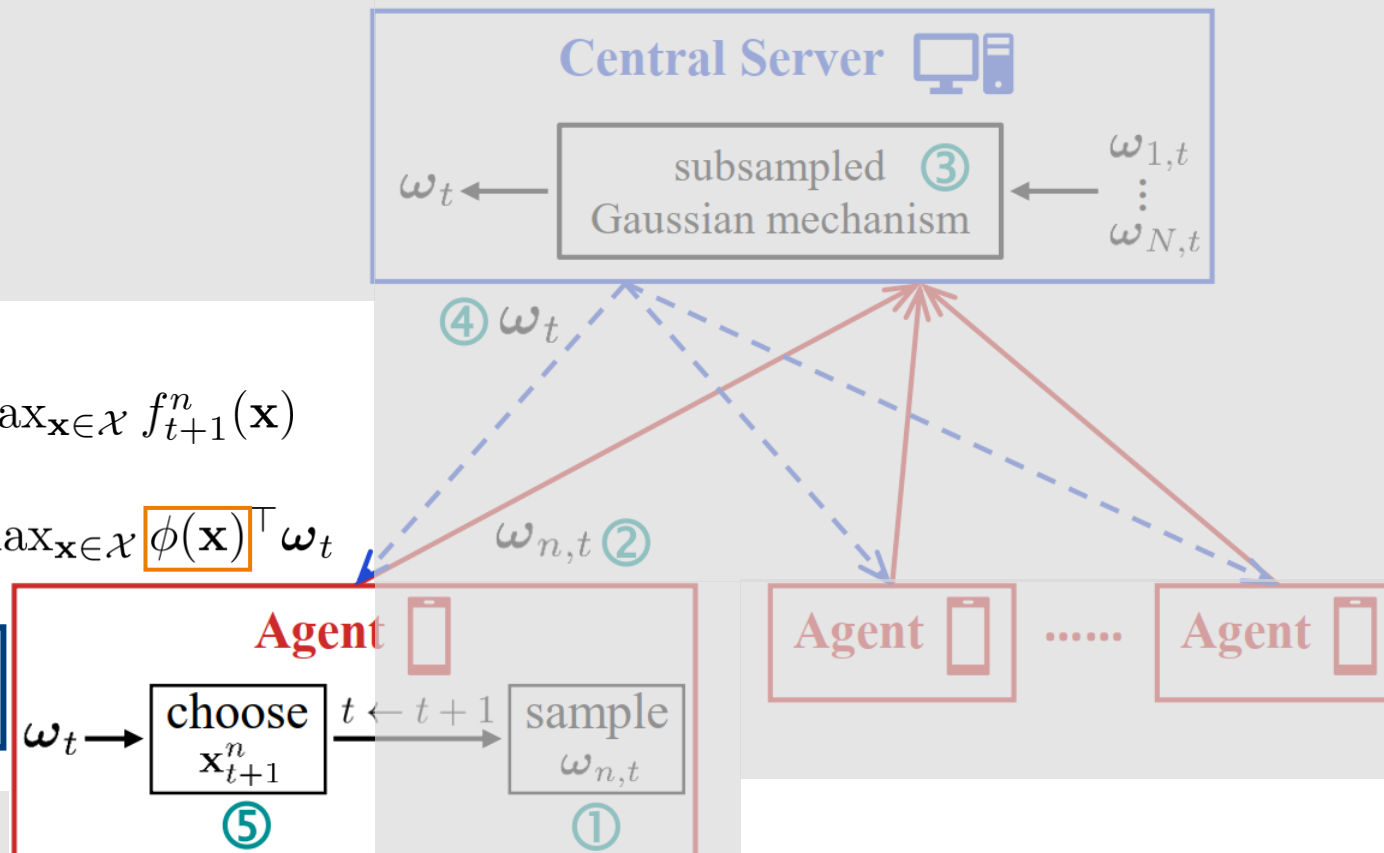
- Given observations $(\mathbf{x}_1^n, y_1^n), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_t^n, y_t^n)$, sample $\omega_{n,t}$ from **posterior of ω** (sampled function: $f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \omega_{n,t}$)

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)

- With probability p_t :
- Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f_{t+1}^n(\mathbf{x})$
- With probability $1 - p_t$:
- Choose $\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^n = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}_t$

p_t monotonically increasing
 $1 - p_t = \mathcal{O}(1/t^2)$

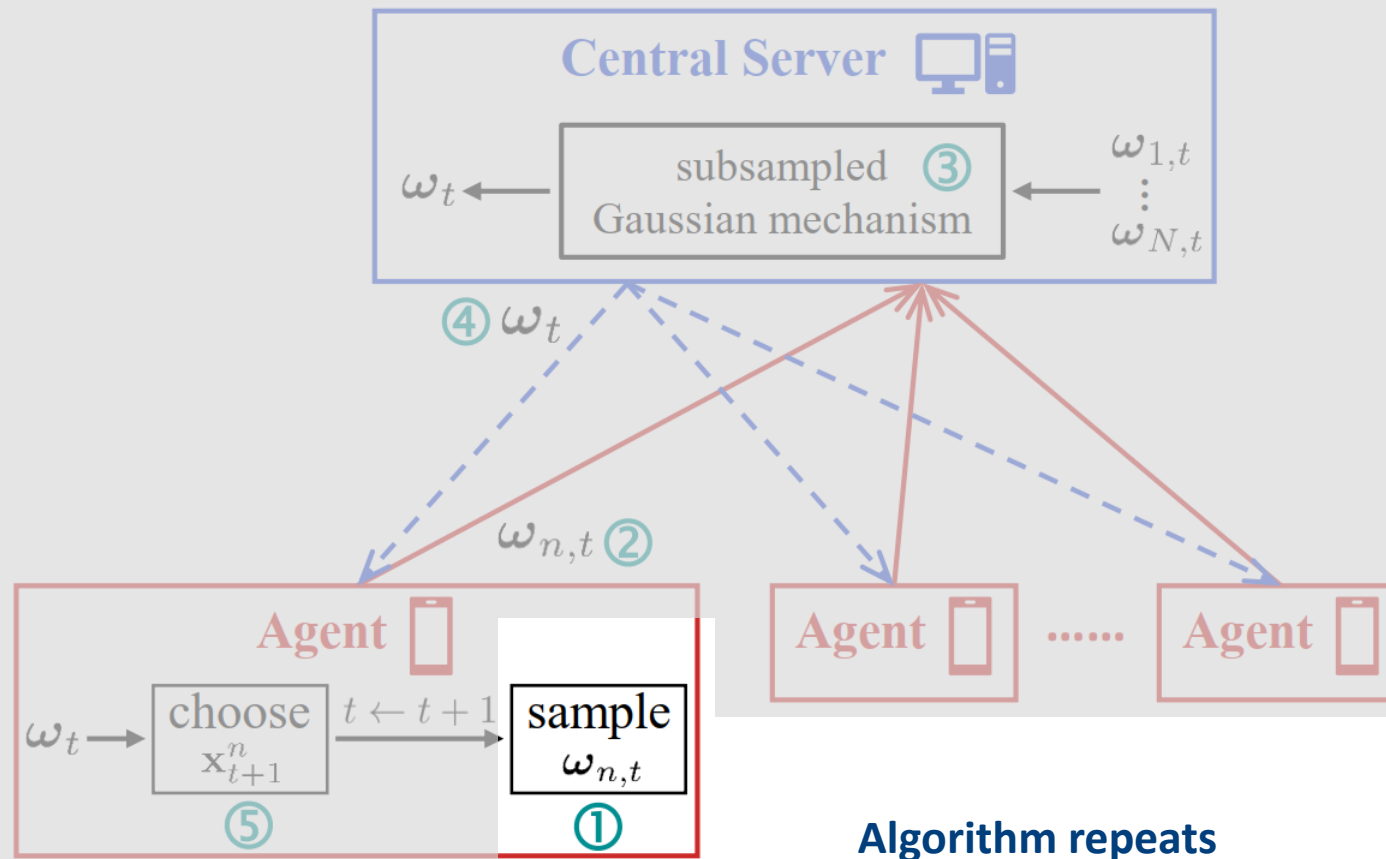


Shared by all agents

- Given observations $(\mathbf{x}_1^n, y_1^n), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_t^n, y_t^n)$, sample $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{n,t}$ from **posterior of $\boldsymbol{\omega}$** (sampled function: $f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\omega}_{n,t}$)

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

DP-FTS (without DE)

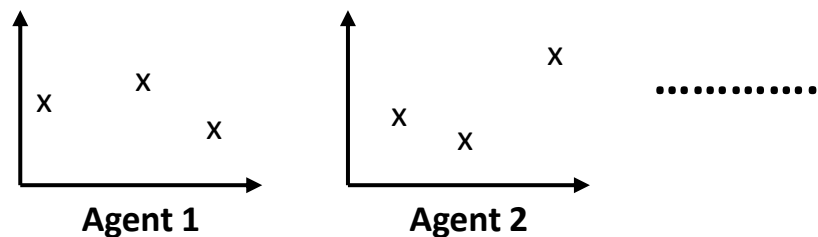


Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

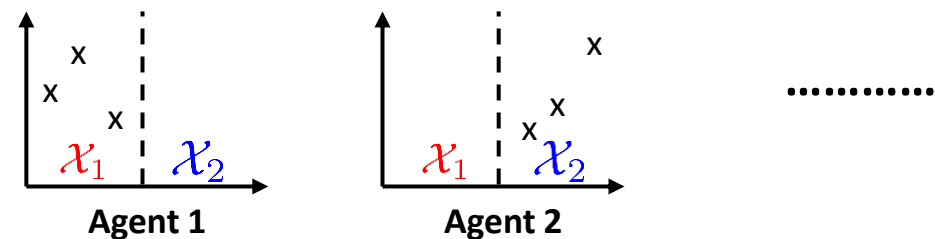
Distributed Exploration (DE)

DP-FTS

Initialization



DP-FTS-DE (P=2)



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

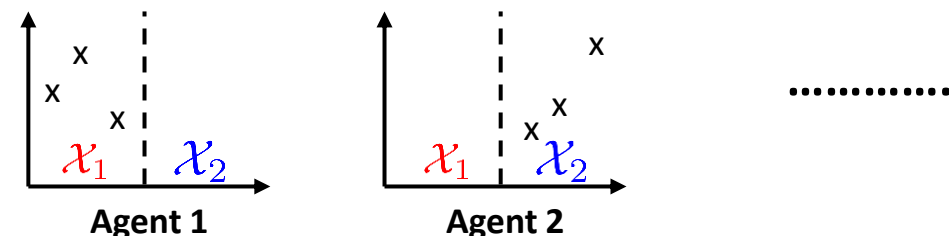
Distributed Exploration (DE)

DP-FTS

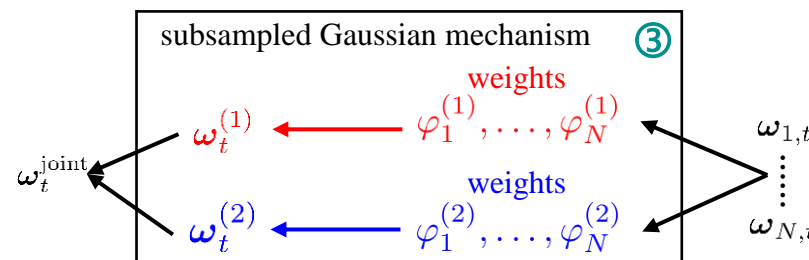
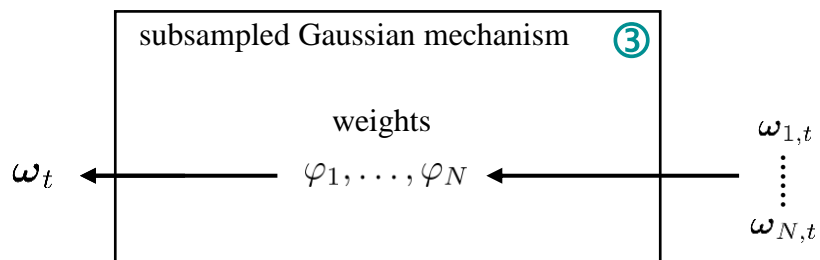
Initialization



DP-FTS-DE (P=2)



DP Transformations



$\varphi_1^{(1)}, \dots, \varphi_N^{(1)}$
gives more weights to
agents exploring \mathcal{X}_1

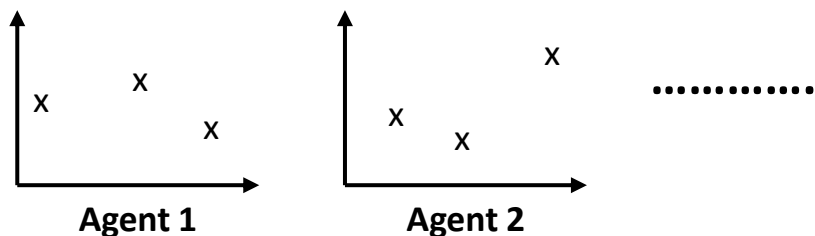
$\varphi_1^{(2)}, \dots, \varphi_N^{(2)}$
gives more weights to
agents exploring \mathcal{X}_2

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

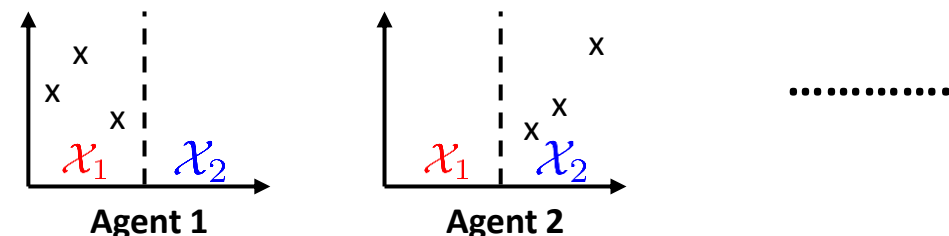
Distributed Exploration (DE)

DP-FTS

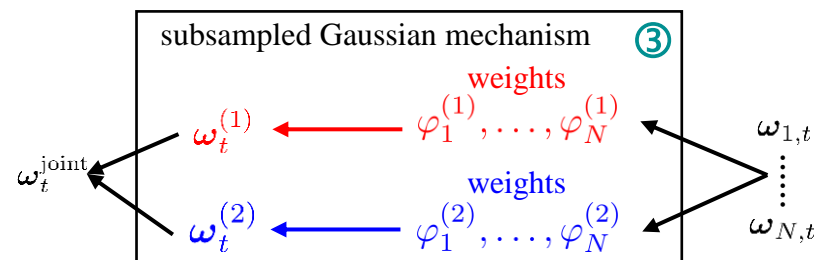
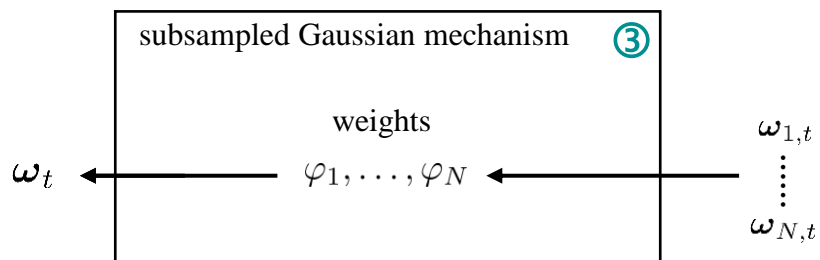
Initialization



DP-FTS-DE (P=2)



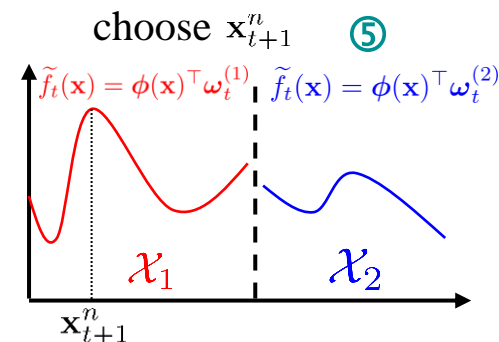
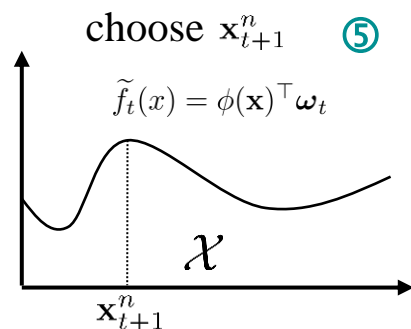
DP Transformations



$\varphi_1^{(1)}, \dots, \varphi_N^{(1)}$
gives more weights to agents exploring \mathcal{X}_1

$\varphi_1^{(2)}, \dots, \varphi_N^{(2)}$
gives more weights to agents exploring \mathcal{X}_2

Query Selection



Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Theoretical Analysis

Proposition 1 (Privacy Guarantee). *There exist constants c_1 and c_2 such that for fixed q and T and any $\epsilon < c_1 q^2 T, \delta > 0$, DP-FTS-DE (Algo. 1) is (ϵ, δ) -DP if $z \geq c_2 q \sqrt{T \log(1/\delta)}/\epsilon$.*

Theorem 1 (Utility Guarantee). *Define $\mathcal{C}_t \triangleq \{n \in [N] \mid \|\omega_{n,t}\|_2 > S/\sqrt{P}\}$. W.p. $\geq 1 - \delta$,*

$$R_T^1 = \tilde{O}\left((B + 1/p_1) \gamma_T \sqrt{T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \psi_t + B \sum_{t=1}^T \vartheta_t \right)$$

where $\psi_t \triangleq \tilde{O}((1 - p_t) P \varphi_{\max} q^{-1} (\Delta_t + z S \sqrt{M}))$, $\Delta_t \triangleq \sum_{n=1}^N \Delta_{n,t}$, $\Delta_{n,t} \triangleq \tilde{O}(\epsilon B t^2 + B + \sqrt{M} + d_n + \sqrt{\gamma_t})$, and $\vartheta_t \triangleq (1 - p_t) \sum_{i=1}^P \sum_{n \in \mathcal{C}_t} \varphi_n^{(i)}$.

- **Privacy-utility trade-off**

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Theoretical Analysis

Proposition 1 (Privacy Guarantee). *There exist constants c_1 and c_2 such that for fixed q and T and any $\epsilon < c_1 q^2 T, \delta > 0$, DP-FTS-DE (Algo. 1) is (ϵ, δ) -DP if $z \geq c_2 q \sqrt{T \log(1/\delta)}/\epsilon$.*

Theorem 1 (Utility Guarantee). *Define $\mathcal{C}_t \triangleq \{n \in [N] \mid \|\omega_{n,t}\|_2 > S/\sqrt{P}\}$. W.p. $\geq 1 - \delta$,*

$$R_T^1 = \tilde{O}\left((B + 1/p_1) \gamma_T \sqrt{T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \psi_t + B \sum_{t=1}^T \vartheta_t \right)$$

where $\psi_t \triangleq \tilde{O}((1 - p_t) P \varphi_{\max} q^{-1} (\Delta_t + z S \sqrt{M}))$, $\Delta_t \triangleq \sum_{n=1}^N \Delta_{n,t}$, $\Delta_{n,t} \triangleq \tilde{O}(\epsilon B t^2 + B + \sqrt{M} + d_n + \sqrt{\gamma_t})$, and $\vartheta_t \triangleq (1 - p_t) \sum_{i=1}^P \sum_{n \in \mathcal{C}_t} \varphi_n^{(i)}$.

- **Privacy-utility trade-off**
 - **Larger z** (larger noise variance) \rightarrow **better privacy** (Prop. 1) & **worse utility** (Theorem 1)

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Theoretical Analysis

Proposition 1 (Privacy Guarantee). *There exist constants c_1 and c_2 such that for fixed q and T and any $\epsilon < c_1 q^2 T, \delta > 0$, DP-FTS-DE (Algo. 1) is (ϵ, δ) -DP if $z \geq c_2 q \sqrt{T \log(1/\delta)}/\epsilon$.*

Theorem 1 (Utility Guarantee). *Define $\mathcal{C}_t \triangleq \{n \in [N] \mid \|\omega_{n,t}\|_2 > S/\sqrt{P}\}$. W.p. $\geq 1 - \delta$,*

$$R_T^1 = \tilde{O}\left((B + 1/p_1) \gamma_T \sqrt{T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \psi_t + B \sum_{t=1}^T \vartheta_t \right)$$

where $\psi_t \triangleq \tilde{O}((1 - p_t) P \varphi_{\max} q^{-1} (\Delta_t + z S \sqrt{M}))$, $\Delta_t \triangleq \sum_{n=1}^N \Delta_{n,t}$, $\Delta_{n,t} \triangleq \tilde{O}(\epsilon B t^2 + B + \sqrt{M} + d_n + \sqrt{\gamma_t})$, and $\vartheta_t \triangleq (1 - p_t) \sum_{i=1}^P \sum_{n \in \mathcal{C}_t} \varphi_n^{(i)}$.

- **Privacy-utility trade-off**
 - **Larger z** (larger noise variance) -> **better privacy** (Prop. 1) & **worse utility** (Theorem 1)
 - **Larger q** (more selected agents in an iteration) -> **worse privacy** (Prop. 1) & **better utility** (Theorem 1)

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Theoretical Analysis

Proposition 1 (Privacy Guarantee). *There exist constants c_1 and c_2 such that for fixed q and T and any $\epsilon < c_1 q^2 T$, $\delta > 0$, DP-FTS-DE (Algo. 1) is (ϵ, δ) -DP if $z \geq c_2 q \sqrt{T \log(1/\delta)}/\epsilon$.*

Theorem 1 (Utility Guarantee). *Define $\mathcal{C}_t \triangleq \{n \in [N] \mid \|\omega_{n,t}\|_2 > \mathcal{S}/\sqrt{P}\}$. W.p. $\geq 1 - \delta$,*

$$R_T^1 = \tilde{O}\left((B + 1/p_1) \gamma_T \sqrt{T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \psi_t + B \sum_{t=1}^T \vartheta_t \right)$$

where $\psi_t \triangleq \tilde{O}((1 - p_t) P \varphi_{\max} q^{-1} (\Delta_t + z \mathcal{S} \sqrt{M}))$, $\Delta_t \triangleq \sum_{n=1}^N \Delta_{n,t}$, $\Delta_{n,t} \triangleq \tilde{O}(\epsilon B t^2 + B + \sqrt{M} + d_n + \sqrt{\gamma_t})$, and $\vartheta_t \triangleq (1 - p_t) \sum_{i=1}^P \sum_{n \in \mathcal{C}_t} \varphi_n^{(i)}$.

- **Two conflicting impacts of \mathcal{S}** (clipping threshold)

- A smaller \mathcal{S} reduces the value of ψ_t -> better regret (due to smaller noise variance)
- A smaller \mathcal{S} increases the cardinality of the set \mathcal{C}_t -> worse regret (due to clipping more vectors)

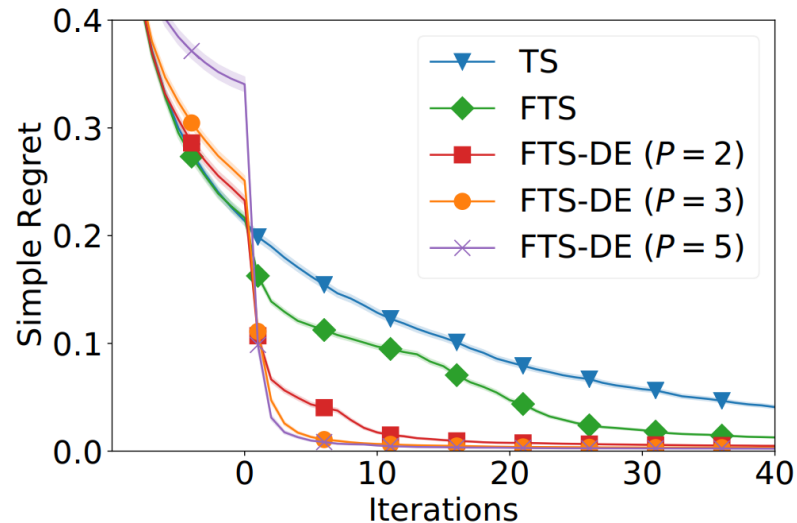


practical guideline

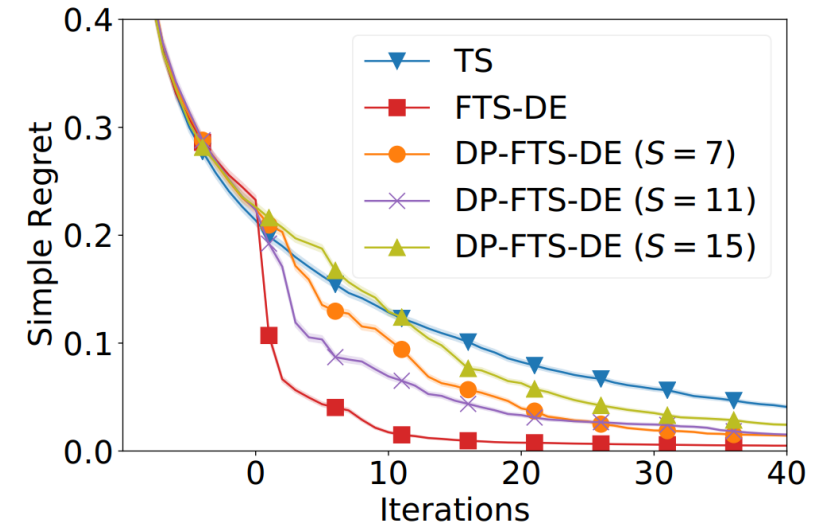
Choose **a small \mathcal{S}** , while ensuring **a small number of vectors are clipped**

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Synthetic Experiments



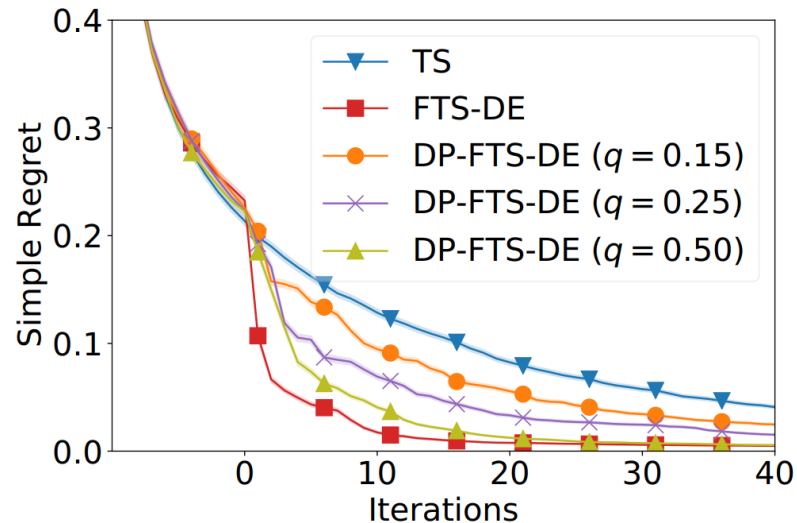
- Impact of P (number of sub-regions in DE) on FTS
 - Larger P improves the performance



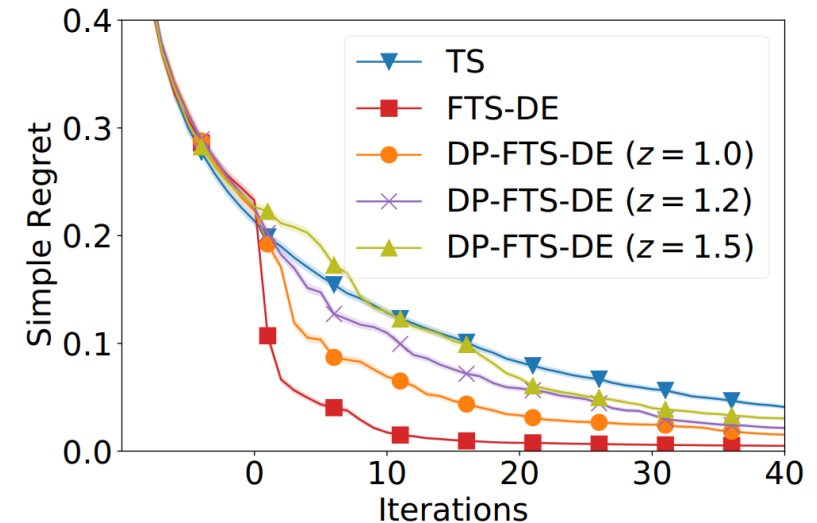
- Impact of S (the clipping threshold)
 - Overly small S -> more vectors clipped
 - Overly large S -> more noises added

Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Synthetic Experiments



Privacy losses (top to bottom):
5.93, 9.91, 20.12



Privacy losses (top to bottom):
9.91, 7.39, 5.22

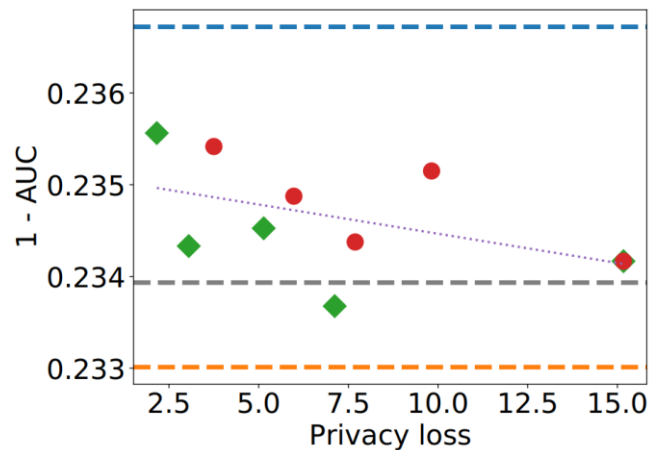
- Impact of q (prob. of selecting an agent)
 - Larger q improves utility & deteriorates privacy

- Impact of z (prop. to noise variance)
 - Larger z deteriorates utility & improves privacy

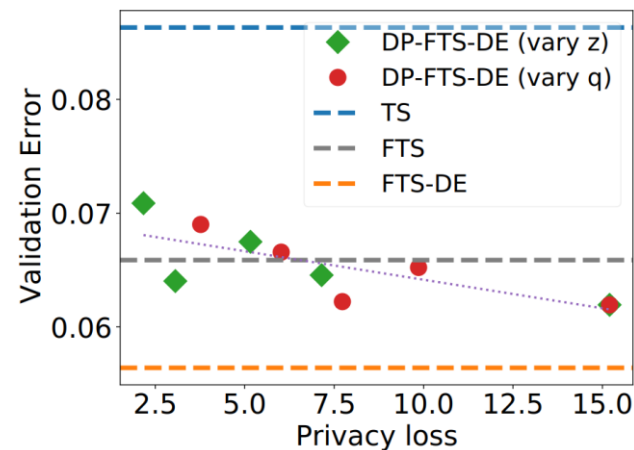
Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Real-world Experiments

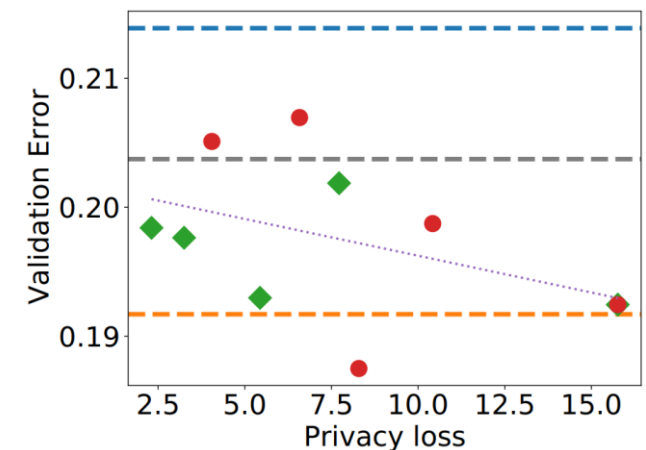
- **Privacy-utility trade-off:**
 - More to the left: better privacy
 - More to the bottom: better utility



Landmine detection (N=29),
hyper tuning for SVM



Activity recognition
using mobile phone (N=30),
hyper tuning for logistic regression

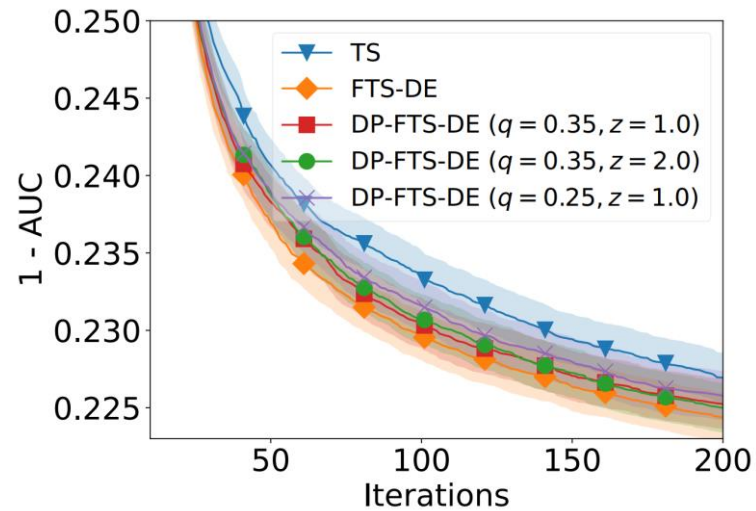


EMNIST (N=50),
hyper tuning for CNN

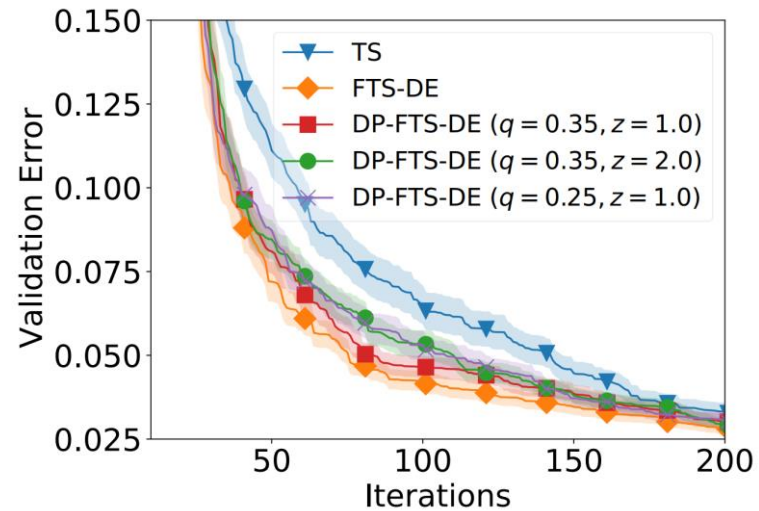
Differentially Private Federated Bayesian Optimization

Real-world Experiments

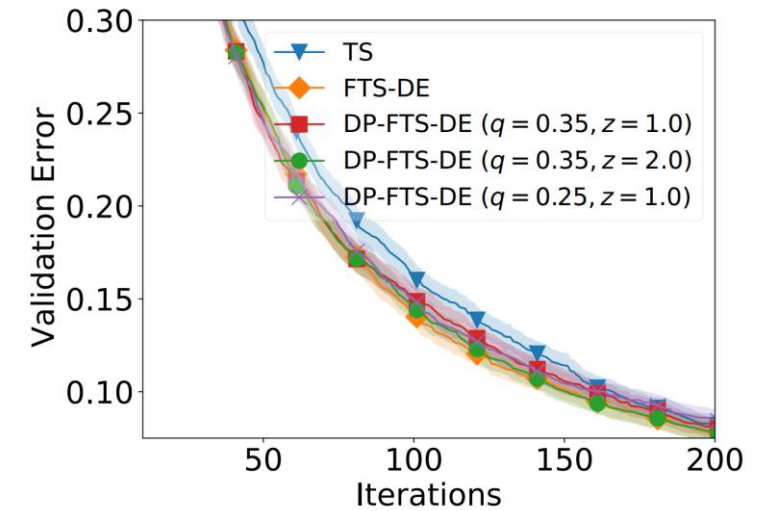
- Privacy-utility trade-off:
 - Convergence



Landmine detection



Activity recognition
using mobile phone



EMNIST

Thank you!