



# A Marauder's Map of Security and Privacy in Machine Learning

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## Machine learning is not magic: *ideal setting*





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## The ML paradigm in adversarial settings



Adapted from a slide by Ian Goodfellow

## Is ML security any different from real-world computer security?



*"Practical security balances the cost of protection and the risk of loss, which is the cost of recovering from a loss times its probability" (Butler Lampson, 2004)* 

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Is the ML paradigm fundamentally different in a way that enables systematic approaches to security and privacy? Revisiting Saltzer and Schroeder's principles



## Saltzer and Schroeder's principles

### Economy of mechanism.

Keep the design of security mechanisms simple.

### Fail-safe defaults.

Base access decisions on permission rather than exclusion.

**Complete mediation.** Every access to an object is checked for authority.

**Open design.** The design of security mechanisms should not be secret.

### Separation of privilege.

A protection mechanism that requires two keys to unlock is more robust and flexible.

### Least privilege.

Every user operates with least privileges necessary.

### Least common mechanism.

Minimize mechanisms depended on by all users.

**Psychological acceptability.** Human interface designed for ease of use.

### Work factor.

Balance cost of circumventing the mechanism with known attacker resources.

### Compromise recording.

Mechanisms that reliably record compromises can be used in place of mechanisms that prevent loss.



## Fail-safe defaults

Example 1: do not output low-confidence predictions at test time

**Example 2:** mitigate data poisoning resulting in a distribution drift

**Attacker:** submits poisoned points to gradually change a model's decision boundary **Defender:** compares accuracy on holdout validation set **before** applying gradients





## Open design

**Example 1:** black-box attacks are not particularly more difficult than white-box attacks



ACM:2650798 (Šrndic and Laskov); arXiv:1602.02697 (Papernot et al.)



## Open design

**Example 2:** gradient masking can be circumvented by a black-box attack



arXiv:1602.02697 (Papernot et al.); arXiv:1705.07204 (Tramer et al.); arXiv:1802.00420 (Athalye et al.)



## Separation of privilege

**Privacy** can be obtained in the **data pipeline** through federated learning or by having different parties encode, shuffle and analyze data in ESA.



### Encode

Shuffle

Analyze

arXiv:1710.00901 (Bittau et al.); arXiv:1602.05629 (McMahan et al.)

Psychological Acceptability and Privacy in Machine Learning



## What is a private algorithm?

Designing algorithms with privacy guarantees understood by humans is difficult.

First question: how should we define privacy? Gold standard is now differential privacy.



 $Pr[M(d) \in S] \le e^{\varepsilon} Pr[M(d') \in S]$ 

IACR:3650 (Dwork et al.)

## A Metaphor For Private Learning

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## **An Individual's Training Data**



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## **An Individual's Training Data**

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## **Big Picture Remains!**

## How to train a model with SGD?

```
Initialize parameters \theta
```

```
For t = 1 \dots T do
```

Sample batch *B* of training examples

Compute average loss L on batch B

Compute average gradient of loss L wrt parameters  $\theta$ 

Update parameters  $\theta$  by a multiple of gradient average

## How to train a model with differentially private SGD?

```
Initialize parameters \theta
For t = 1 \dots T do
  Sample batch B of training examples
  Compute per-example loss L on batch B
  Compute per-example gradients of loss L wrt parameters \theta
  Ensure L2 norm of gradients < C by clipping
  Add Gaussian noise to average gradients (as a function of C)
  Update parameters \theta by a multiple of noisy gradient average
```

Deep Learning with Differential Privacy (CCS, 2016) Abadi, Chu, Goodfellow, McMahan, Mironov, Talwar, Zhang



## **Differentially Private Stochastic Gradient Descent**

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Count votes

 $n_j(\vec{x}) = |\{i : i \in 1..n, f_i(\vec{x}) = j\}|$ 

Take maximum  $f(x) = \arg \max_{j} \left\{ n_{j}(\vec{x}) \right\}$ 



If most teachers agree on the label, it does not depend on specific partitions, so the privacy cost is small.

If two classes have close vote counts, the disagreement may reveal private information.











Prediction

Data feeding

## PATE: Private Aggregation of Teacher Ensembles



PATE: Private Aggregation of Teacher Ensembles (ICLR 2017) Papernot, Abadi, Erlingsson, Goodfellow, Talwar



## Aligning privacy with generalization



Scalable Private Learning with PATE (Papernot\*, Song\* et al., ICLR 2018)

Model assurance and admission control

Model assurance and admission control

Machine learning objective: average-case performance  $\rightarrow$  Testing

Security objective: worst-case performance  $\rightarrow$  Verification



Model assurance. (training time)

Establish with confidence that system matches security requirements.

Admission control. (test time)

Do we admit an answer for a given input into our pool of answers? Combine input validation and sandboxing techniques.



## How to specify policies for ML security & privacy?

**Informal security policy:** learning system accurately models *exactly* the end task which the system was designed to solve.

- $\rightarrow$  Correct implementation (e.g., no numerical instabilities)
- $\rightarrow$  Solves the end task (e.g., correct predictions on all valid inputs)
- $\rightarrow$  Only solves the end task (e.g., no backdoor or other poisoned data)

**Open problem:** how to formalize ML security policy with *precise semantics* while avoiding *ambiguity*?

Privacy policy: learning behavior does not reflect any private information

Formal requirement specification: differential privacy



## An example toy security policy: the $l_p$ norm in vision

#### Perturbation-Unrobust Model

### Perturbation-Robust Model



--- Perturbation-unrobust decision boundary --- Oracle Decision-boundary --- Perturbation-robust decision boundary

Exploiting Excessive Invariance caused by Norm-Bounded Adversarial Robustness (Jacobsen et al.)



## Admission control at test time

Weak authentication (similar to search engines) calls for admission control:

Do we admit a sandboxed model's output into our pool of answers?



# Towards auditing ML systems



## The case for auditing in ML

Auditing: (1) *identify* information to collect (2) *analyze* it

When systems have weak authentication and authorization, auditing is an important component of security. (John et al., 2010)



Auditing design is informed by specification of security policy.

**Benefits:** reactive and proactive identification of threats increased work factor and psychological acceptability

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## Auditing the learning algorithm: an example for privacy



arXiv:1607.00133 (Abadi et al.); arXiv:1802.08908 (Papernot\*, Song\* et al.); arXiv (Carlini et al.)

# Conclusions



## Efforts need to specify ML security and privacy policies.

What is the right abstraction and/or language to formalize security and privacy requirements with precise semantics and no ambiguity?



Towards the Science of Security and Privacy in Machine Learning (Papernot et al.)



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What is the right abstraction and/or language to formalize security and privacy requirements with precise semantics and no ambiguity?

## Admission control and auditing may address lack of assurance.

How can sandboxing, input-output validation and compromise recording help secure ML systems when data provenance and assurance is hard?



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What is the right abstraction and/or language to formalize security and privacy requirements with precise semantics and no ambiguity?

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How can sandboxing, input-output validation and compromise recording help secure ML systems when data provenance and assurance is hard?

## Security and privacy should strive to align with ML goals.

How do private learning and robust learning relate to generalization? How does poisoning relate to learning from noisy data or distribution drifts?

### **Ressources:**

cleverhans.io github.com/tensorflow/cleverhans github.com/tensorflow/privacy

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