

# Towards Trustworthy AI in Next Generation Wireless Networks

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FAIR spoke 1 CO-PI

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# Syllabus

1 Introduction

2 Federated Learning

3 Explainable Artificial Intelligence

4 Federated Learning of XAI models for Regression

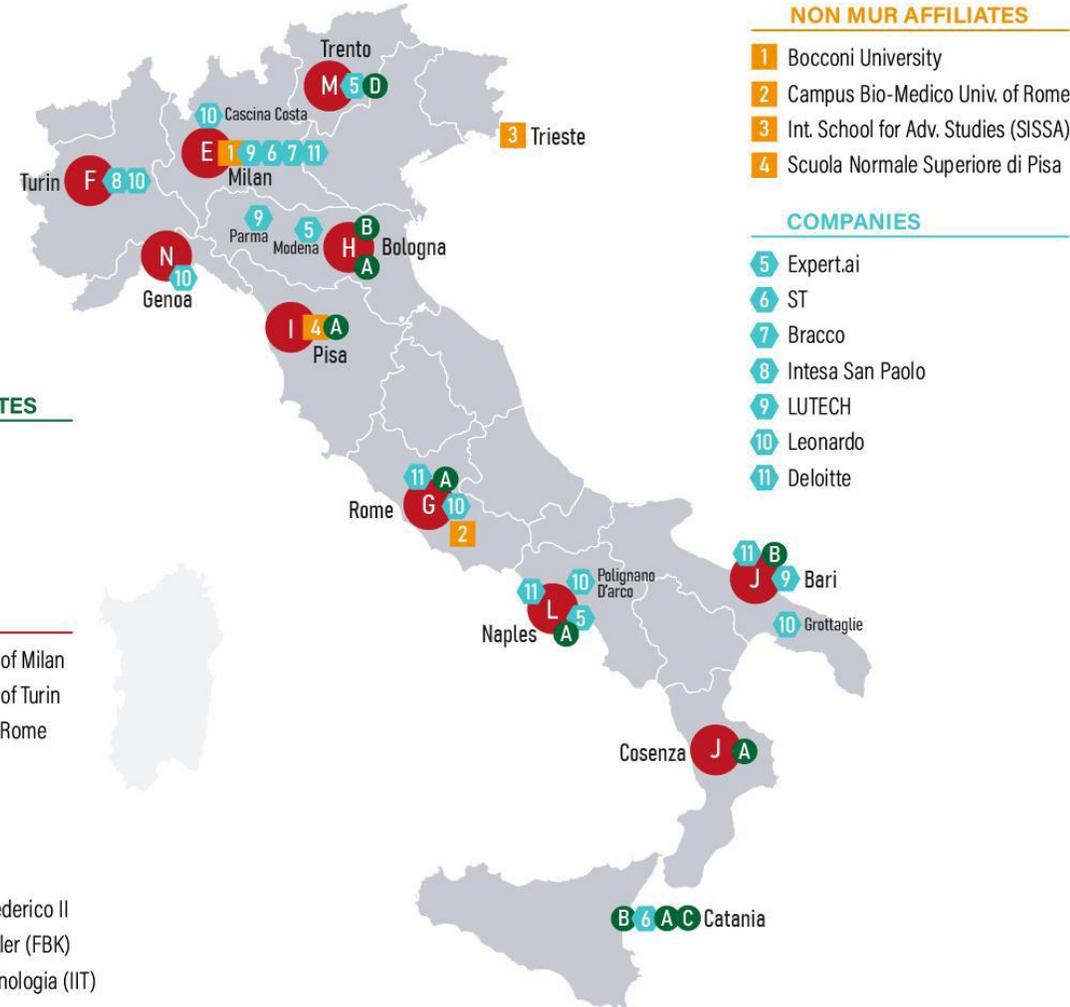
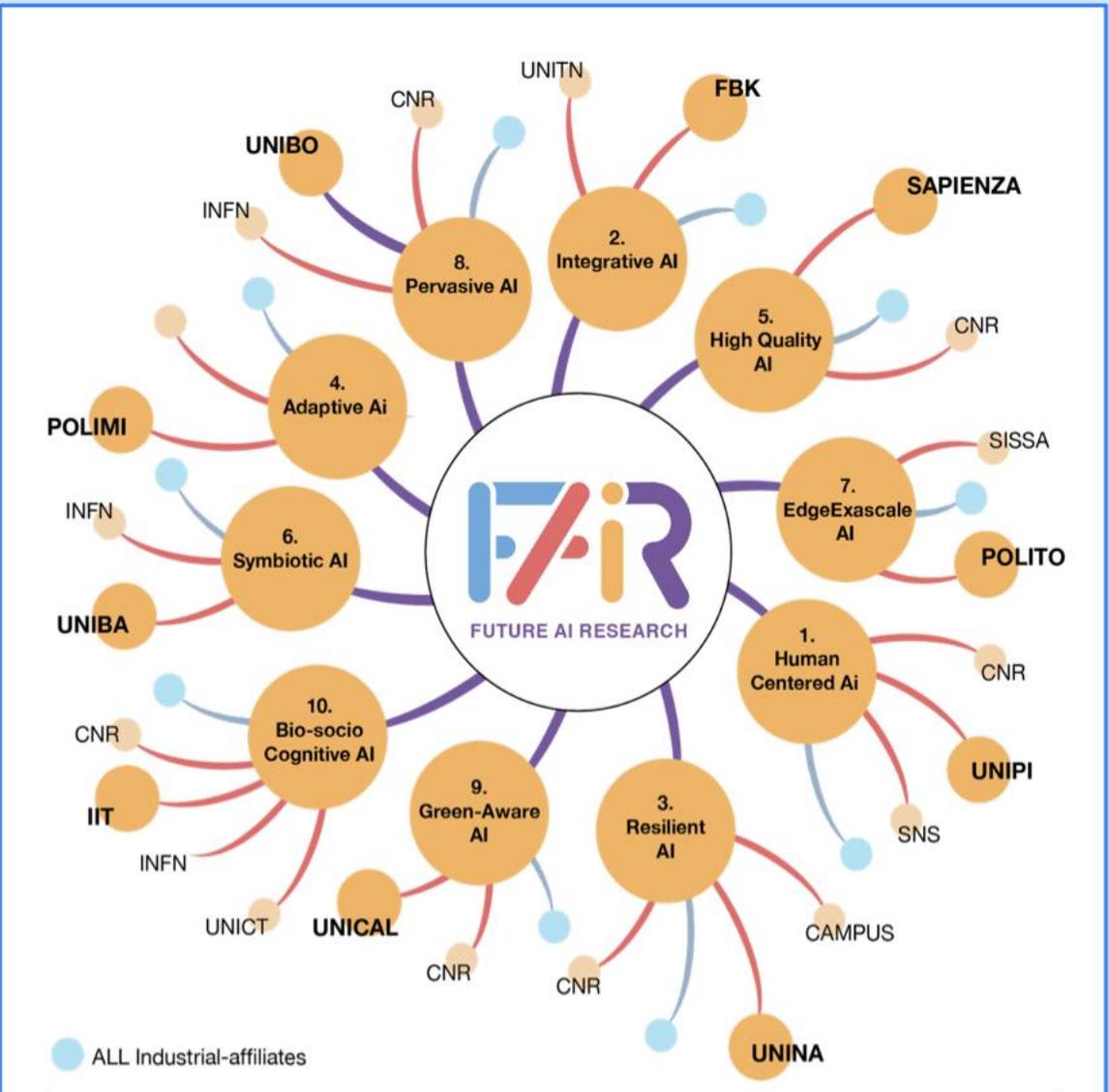
5 Federated Post-hoc Explainability

6 Conclusions

# Future Artificial Intelligence Research (FAIR)

- FAIR - Future Artificial Intelligence Research (122 million)
- Call '**Extended Partnerships: Artificial Intelligence. Fundamental aspects**' of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan
- Started at the beginning of 2023 and will terminate at the end of 2025
- Theoretical, modelling and engineering aspects of modern Artificial Intelligence
- The FAIR project brings together **350 researchers** and is developed in **10 spokes**.





# Future Artificial Intelligence Research (FAIR)

## Spoke 1 “Human-centered AI”

Dino Pedreschi and Francesco Marcelloni

The study of **AI systems that cooperate synergistically, proactively and purposefully with humans** at individual and collective scale

- **amplifying instead of replacing human intelligence**
- **maximizing benefits while preventing and minimizing risks**



**FUTURE AI RESEARCH**

### **Spoke 1 - Critical Mass**

39 multi-disciplinary scientists

9 UNIPI Departments

2 CNR Institutes

2 SNS Classes

# Spoke 1 “Human-centered AI”

- 1) human-centered **machine learning and reasoning**:  
how humans and AI models interact synergistically,  
continuously co-evolving together (WP 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
- 2) **social-aware AI**:  
how to understand and govern the dynamics and societal  
outcomes of large-scale socio-technical systems of humans and  
AIs (WP1.4, 1.5)
- 3) **responsible design of trustworthy AI systems**:  
how to responsibly (co-)design, develop, validate and use  
trustworthy AI systems (WP1.6)

Extensive **experiments, case studies and pilots** of Human-centered-AI systems (WP1.7).



# Project FoReLab – Department of Excellence

**Future-Oriented Research Laboratory (Forelab) aims to focusing towards new methodologies, paradigms, and enabling technologies for Industry 5.0**

- **Trustworthy Artificial/Embodied Intelligence (TAEI):** The activity focuses on frontier aspects of **trustworthy AI** and on the ability of systems to develop **intelligent behaviours** as emerging from the interactions between artificial agents (e.g. robots) and the environment, through the body of the agent itself (Embodied Intelligence), with the aim of promoting widespread, reliable and integrated use of both.



# Good AI Lab

Fair Spoke 1's and FoReLab's spin-off: Good AI Lab



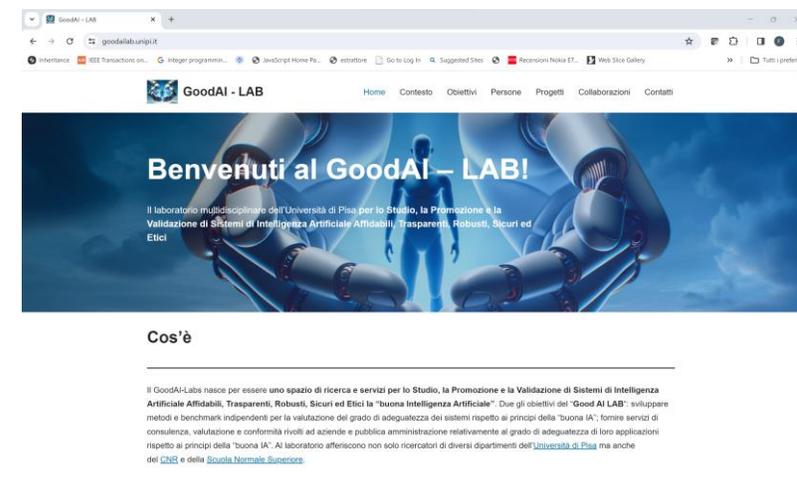
## How to design Trustworthy, Transparent, Robust, Safe, and Ethically-aligned AI Systems?

- Develop independent methods and benchmarks for assessing the compliance with the principles of "good AI".
- Provide consultancy, evaluation, and certification services aimed at companies and public administration
- Deliver multidisciplinary training courses

**Location:** Department of Information Engineering, UNIPI

**Coordinator:** Francesco Marcelloni

Scientific Board with members from UNIPI, CNR and SNS



<https://goodailab.unipi.it/>

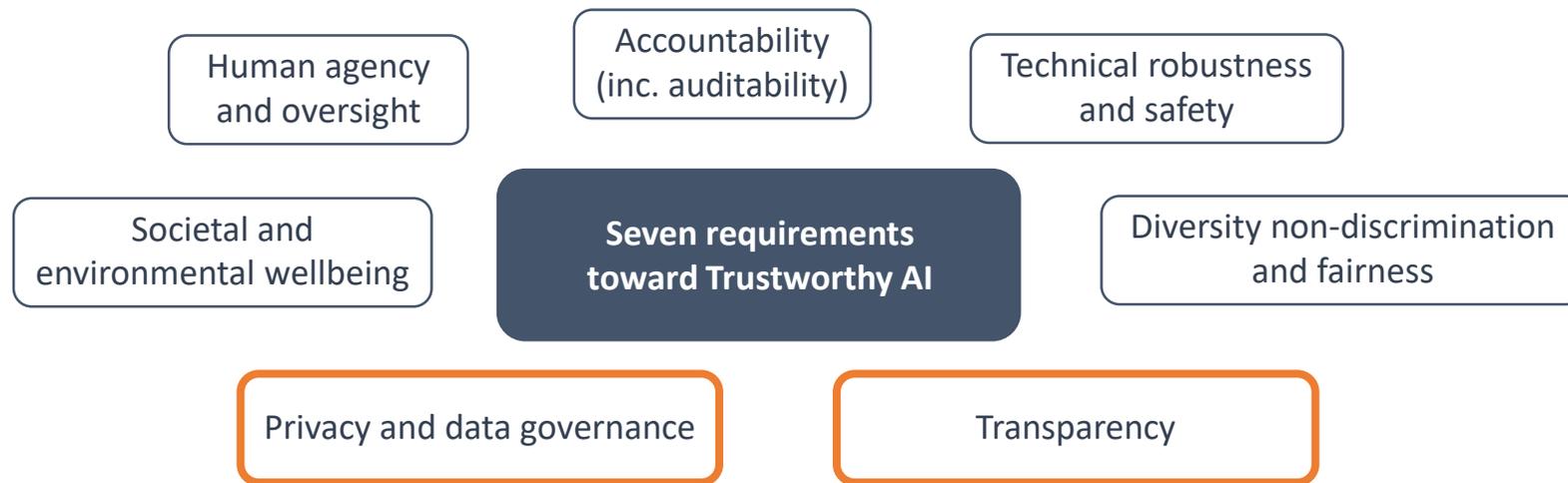
# The EU view of AI

## AI ACT (21 May 2024):

to improve the functioning of the internal market by laying down a **uniform legal framework** in particular for the development, placing on the market, putting into service and the use of artificial intelligence systems in the Union in conformity with Union values, **to promote the uptake of human centric and trustworthy artificial intelligence** while ensuring a **high level of protection of health, safety, fundamental rights** enshrined in the Charter, including democracy and rule of law and environmental protection, against harmful effects of artificial intelligence systems in the Union **and to support innovation.**



# The EU view of AI

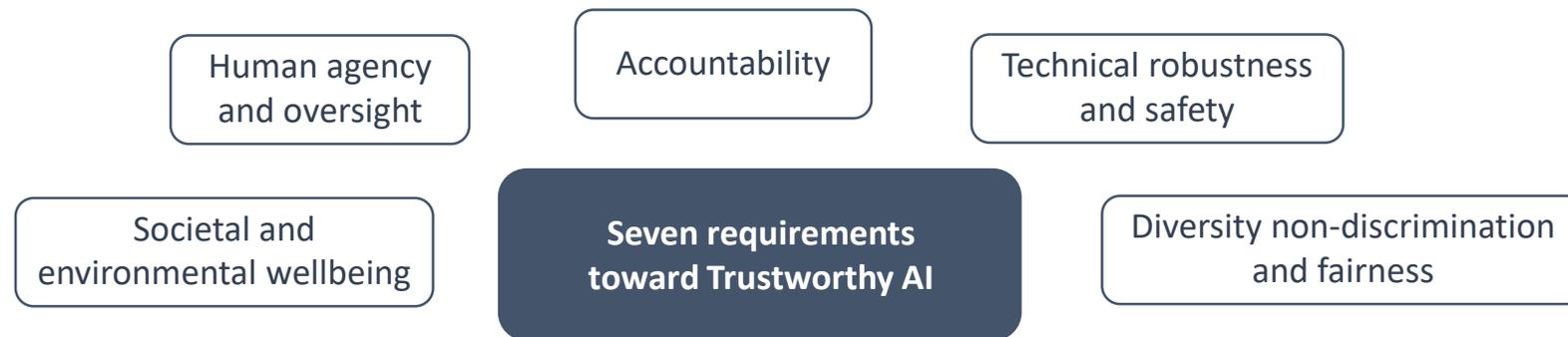
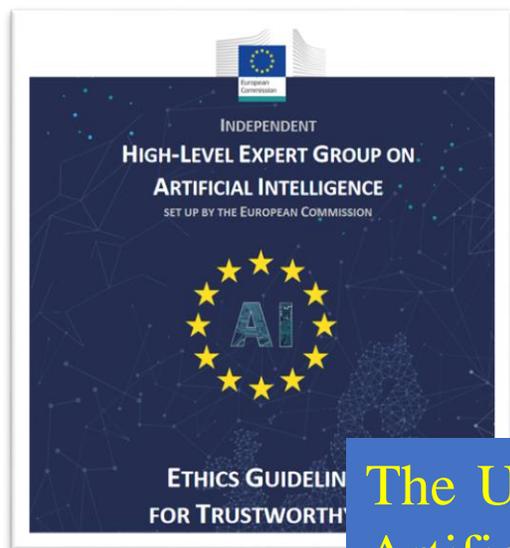


Need to collect data to train accurate AI models clashes with need to preserve privacy of data owners.

“AI systems and their decisions should be explained in a manner adapted to the stakeholder concerned.”



# The EU view of AI



The University of Pisa with the idea of Federated Learning of Explainable Artificial Intelligence Models (Fed-XAI) has been selected as **Key Innovator** by the European Commission's Innovation Radar.

Need to collect data to train accurate AI models clashes with need to preserve privacy of data owners.

“AI systems and their decisions should be explained in a manner adapted to the stakeholder concerned.”



# Privacy and Data Governance

- Increasing attention towards privacy preservation
  - EU General Data Protection Regulation (**GDPR**)
- Novel learning paradigm: **Federated Learning**
  - Training a *centralized model on decentralized data*
  - Participants share model updates, not data

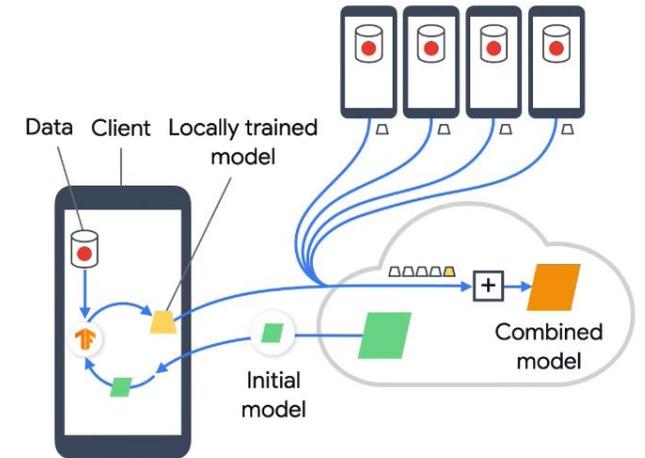
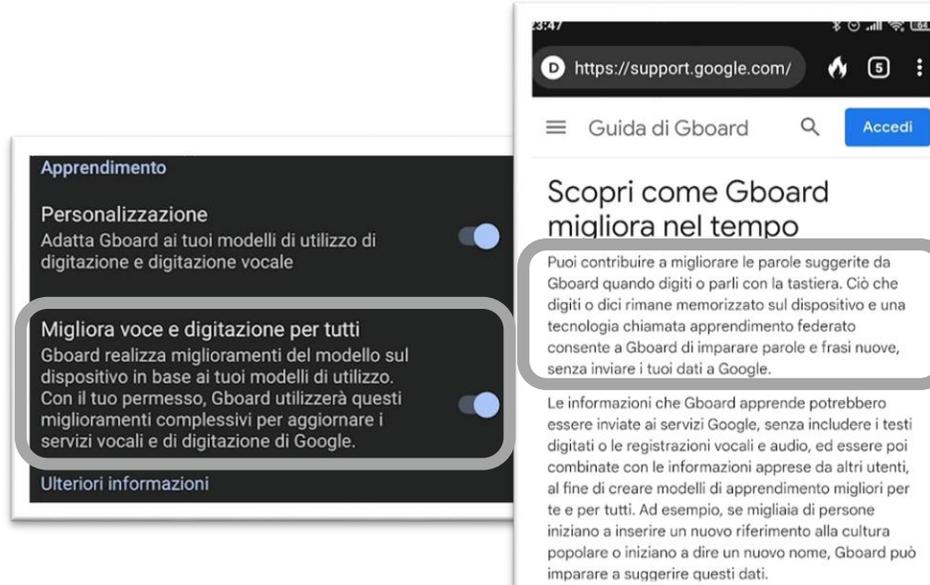


Figure from <https://ml.berkeley.edu>

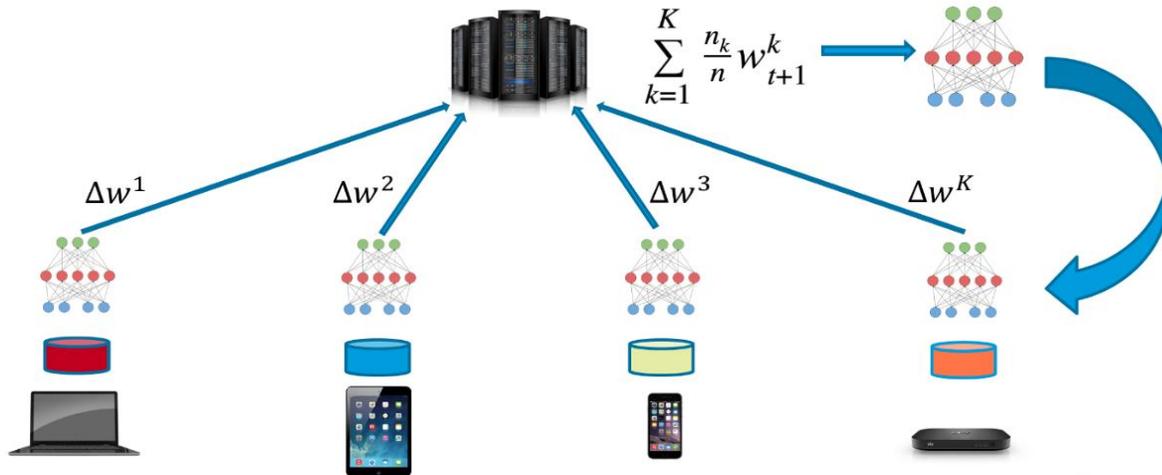
- Examples:
  - Gboard
  - Voice Assistant



The image shows two screenshots related to Gboard. The left screenshot displays the 'Apprendimento' (Learning) settings, with options for 'Personalizzazione' (Adapt Gboard to your typing and voice typing models) and 'Migliora voce e digitazione per tutti' (Improve voice and typing for everyone) both turned on. The right screenshot shows the Gboard privacy policy page, explaining that Gboard uses federated learning to improve suggestions over time and that data is not sent to Google.

# Popular approaches (Federated Averaging)

How does it work?



Federated Learning (Source: <https://proandroiddev.com/federated-learning-e79e054c33ef>)

- $C$  = fraction of clients that participates in each federated round
- $K$  = total number of clients (indexed by  $k$ )
- $E$  = number of training passes each client makes over its local dataset on each round
- $B$  = local minibatch size used for the client updates  
( $B = \infty$  indicates that the full local dataset is treated as a single minibatch)
- $P_k$  = set of indexes of data points on client  $k$ , with  $n_k = |P_k|$



**Algorithm 1** FederatedAveraging. The  $K$  clients are indexed by  $k$ ;  $B$  is the local minibatch size,  $E$  is the number of local epochs, and  $\eta$  is the learning rate.

**Server executes:**

initialize  $w_0$

**for** each round  $t = 1, 2, \dots$  **do**

$m \leftarrow \max(C \cdot K, 1)$

$S_t \leftarrow$  (random set of  $m$  clients)

**for** each client  $k \in S_t$  **in parallel do**

$w_{t+1}^k \leftarrow$  ClientUpdate( $k, w_t$ )

$w_{t+1} \leftarrow \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{n_k}{n} w_{t+1}^k$

**ClientUpdate**( $k, w$ ): // Run on client  $k$

$\mathcal{B} \leftarrow$  (split  $\mathcal{P}_k$  into batches of size  $B$ )

**for** each local epoch  $i$  from 1 to  $E$  **do**

**for** batch  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  **do**

$w \leftarrow w - \eta \nabla \ell(w; b)$

**return**  $w$  to server

# Popular approaches

## Federated Stochastic Gradient Descent (FedSGD) vs Federated averaging (FedAVG):

In **FedSGD** each client  $k$  computes the gradient on its local data at the current model  $w_t$  and the central server aggregates these gradients and updates the global model.

Note that FedSGD coincides to FedAvg with  
 $C = 1, B = \infty, E = 1$

In **FedAVG** each client locally takes one or multiple steps of gradient descent on the current model  $w_t$  using its local data, and the server then takes a weighed average of the resulting models.

- $C$  = fraction of clients that participates in each federated round
- $K$  = total number of clients (indexed by  $k$ )
- $E$  = number of training passes each client makes over its local dataset on each round
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**Algorithm 1** FederatedAveraging. The  $K$  clients are indexed by  $k$ ;  $B$  is the local minibatch size,  $E$  is the number of local epochs, and  $\eta$  is the learning rate.

---

**Server executes:**

```

initialize  $w_0$ 
for each round  $t = 1, 2, \dots$  do
   $m \leftarrow \max(C \cdot K, 1)$ 
   $S_t \leftarrow$  (random set of  $m$  clients)
  for each client  $k \in S_t$  in parallel do
     $w_{t+1}^k \leftarrow$  ClientUpdate( $k, w_t$ )
   $w_{t+1} \leftarrow \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{n_k}{n} w_{t+1}^k$ 
  
```

**ClientUpdate( $k, w$ ):** // Run on client  $k$

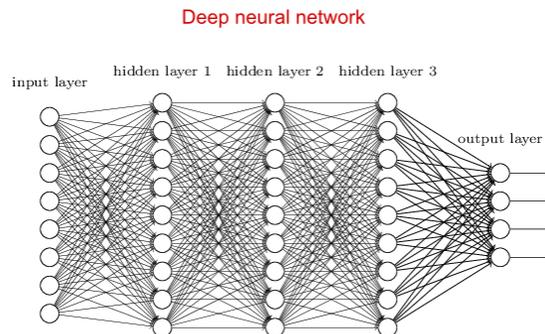
```

 $\mathcal{B} \leftarrow$  (split  $\mathcal{P}_k$  into batches of size  $B$ )
for each local epoch  $i$  from 1 to  $E$  do
  for batch  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  do
     $w \leftarrow w - \eta \nabla \ell(w; b)$ 
return  $w$  to server
  
```

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# Transparency

- Communication
  - Humans have the right to be informed that they are interacting with an AI system.
- Traceability
  - Data gathering/labelling and algorithms should be documented to the best possible standard
- **Explainability**
  - Systems and decisions should be explained in a manner adapted to the stakeholder concerned
    - *Easy* for decision trees, *critical* for deep neural networks



## Deep neural networks

- Multiple layers of non-linear information processing
- Often referred to as ***opaque*** or ***black-box*** models

# Explainability

- How to achieve explainability?

Post-hoc Explainability Techniques

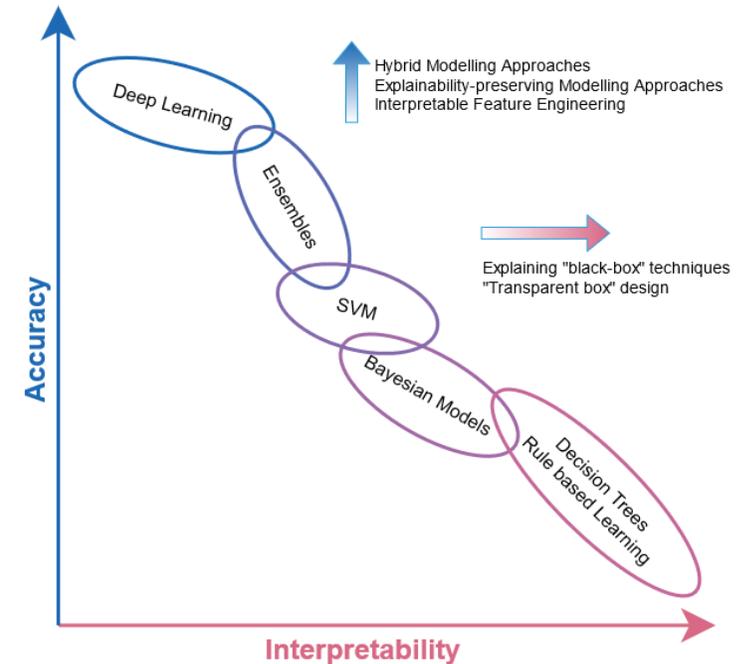
Design of Inherently Interpretable Models

- How to characterize inherent interpretability?

- There exists a **trade-off\*** between
  - model **accuracy**
  - model **interpretability**

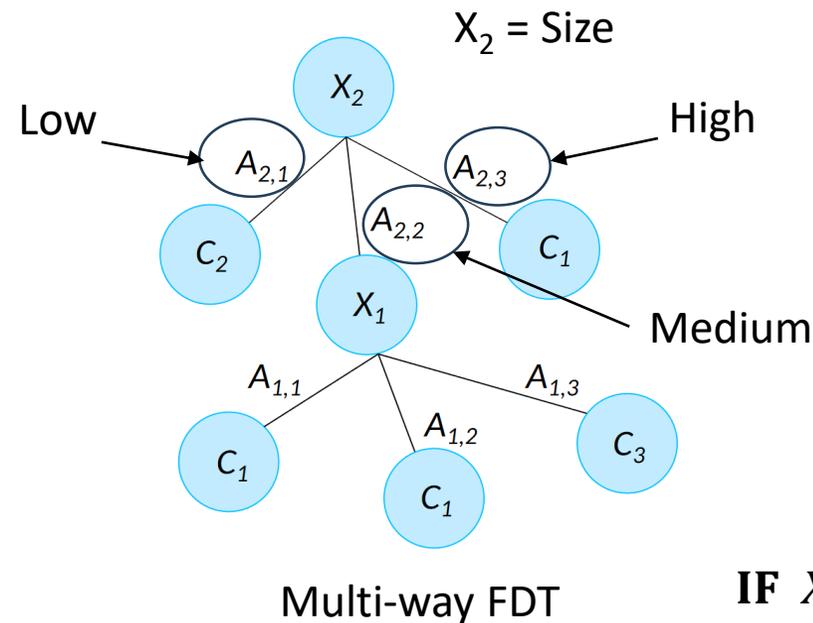
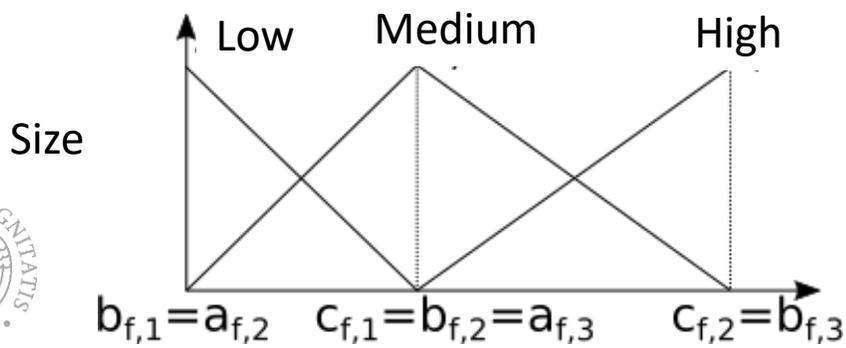
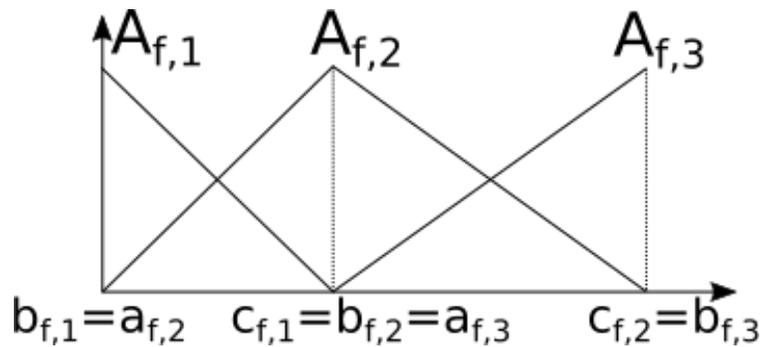
\*given

- a target function of a certain complexity, and
- a suitable amount of available data



# Interpretable Models: Fuzzy Decision Tree (FDT)

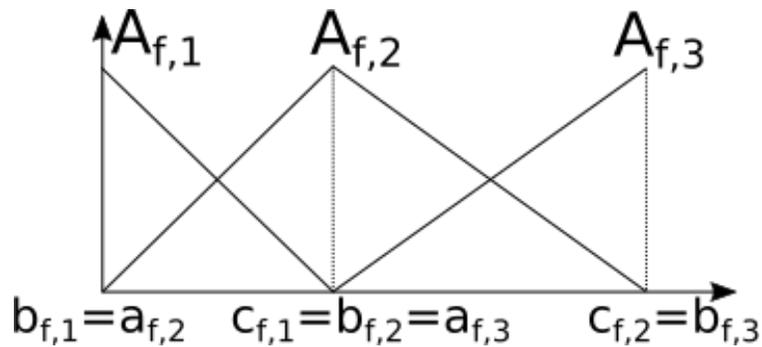
- Directed acyclic graph
- Generated in a top-down way by performing **recursive partitions of the attribute space**.
- Typically, requires a **fuzzy partition defined upon each continuous attribute**.



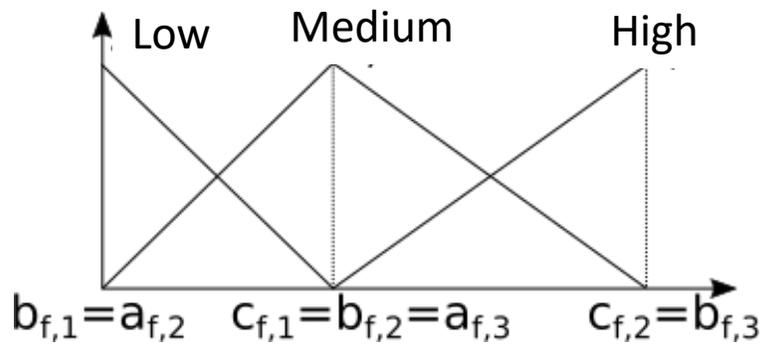
IF  $X_1$  IS  $A_{1,j_{k,1}}$  ... AND  $X_F$  IS  $A_{F,j_{k,F}}$   
 THEN  $y_k(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_{k,0} + \sum_{i=1}^F \gamma_{k,i} \cdot x_i$

# Interpretable Models: Fuzzy Rule-Based Systems

- The model consists of a rule-base, i.e., a collection of rules in the form  
*if «antecedent» then «consequent»*
- Example of rules in the form *first-order Takagi-Sugeno-Kang Fuzzy Rule-Based Systems*



**IF**  $X_1$  **IS**  $A_{1,j_{k,1}}$  ... **AND**  $X_F$  **IS**  $A_{F,j_{k,F}}$   
**THEN**  $y_k(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_{k,0} + \sum_{i=1}^F \gamma_{k,i} \cdot x_i$



Size

**IF** *Size* **IS** *low* ... **AND**  $X_F$  **IS**  $A_{F,j_{k,F}}$   
**THEN**  $y_k(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_{k,0} + \sum_{i=1}^F \gamma_{k,i} \cdot x_i$

# The Traditional TSK FRBS

Let

- $X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_F\}$ , be a set of **input variable**
- $U_f$ , be the **universe of discourse** of variable  $X_f$
- $Y$ , be a continuous **output variable**
- $P_f = \{A_{f,1}, A_{f,2}, \dots, A_{f,T_f}\}$ , be a **fuzzy partition** over  $U_f$  with  $T_f$  fuzzy sets

The **generic  $k^{th}$  rule**,  $R_k$ , of the rule base is in the form:

**IF**  $X_1$  **IS**  $A_{1,j_{k,1}}$  ... **AND**  $X_F$  **IS**  $A_{F,j_{k,F}}$

**THEN**  $y_k(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_{k,0} + \sum_{i=1}^F \gamma_{k,i} \cdot x_i$

Inference stage:

Given input pattern  $\mathbf{x}$ , compute **strength of activation** of each rule:

$$w_k(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{f=1}^F \mu_{f,j_{k,f}}(x_f) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, \dots, K$$

**Estimation of antecedent parameters:**

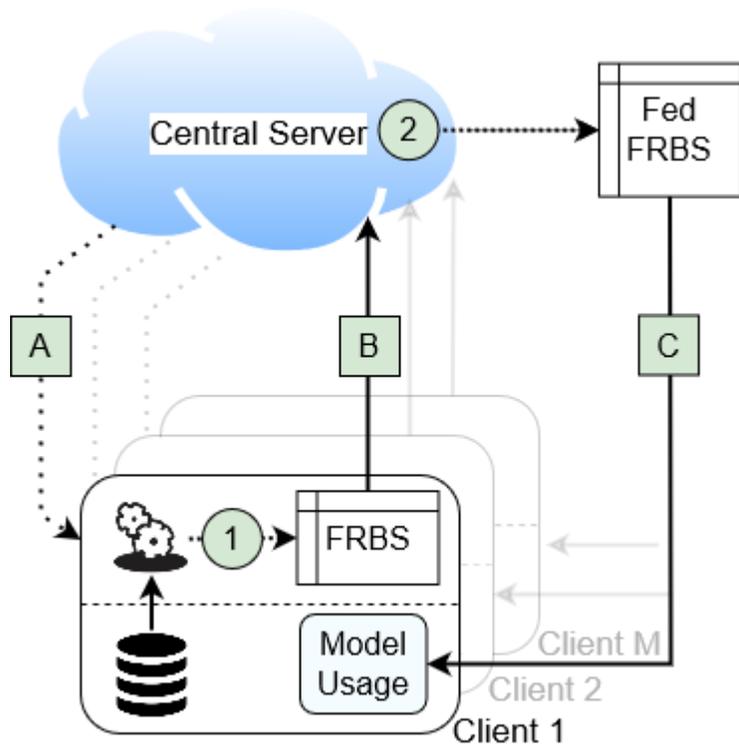
- Clustering in the input-output product space
- Fitting convex envelop of the projected membership values for each discovered cluster

$$\hat{y}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \left( \frac{w_k(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{h=1}^K w_h(\mathbf{x})} \right) \cdot y_k(\mathbf{x})$$

**Estimation of consequent parameters:**

- Weighted Least Squared method

# Federated Learning of TSK FRBS



- A Configuration: central server configures the learning process
- 1 Local learning of TSK-FRBSs
- B Transmission of local models to the central server
- 2 Federated learning of the global TSK-FRBS: aggregation of the models
- C Transmission of the aggregated model to the clients

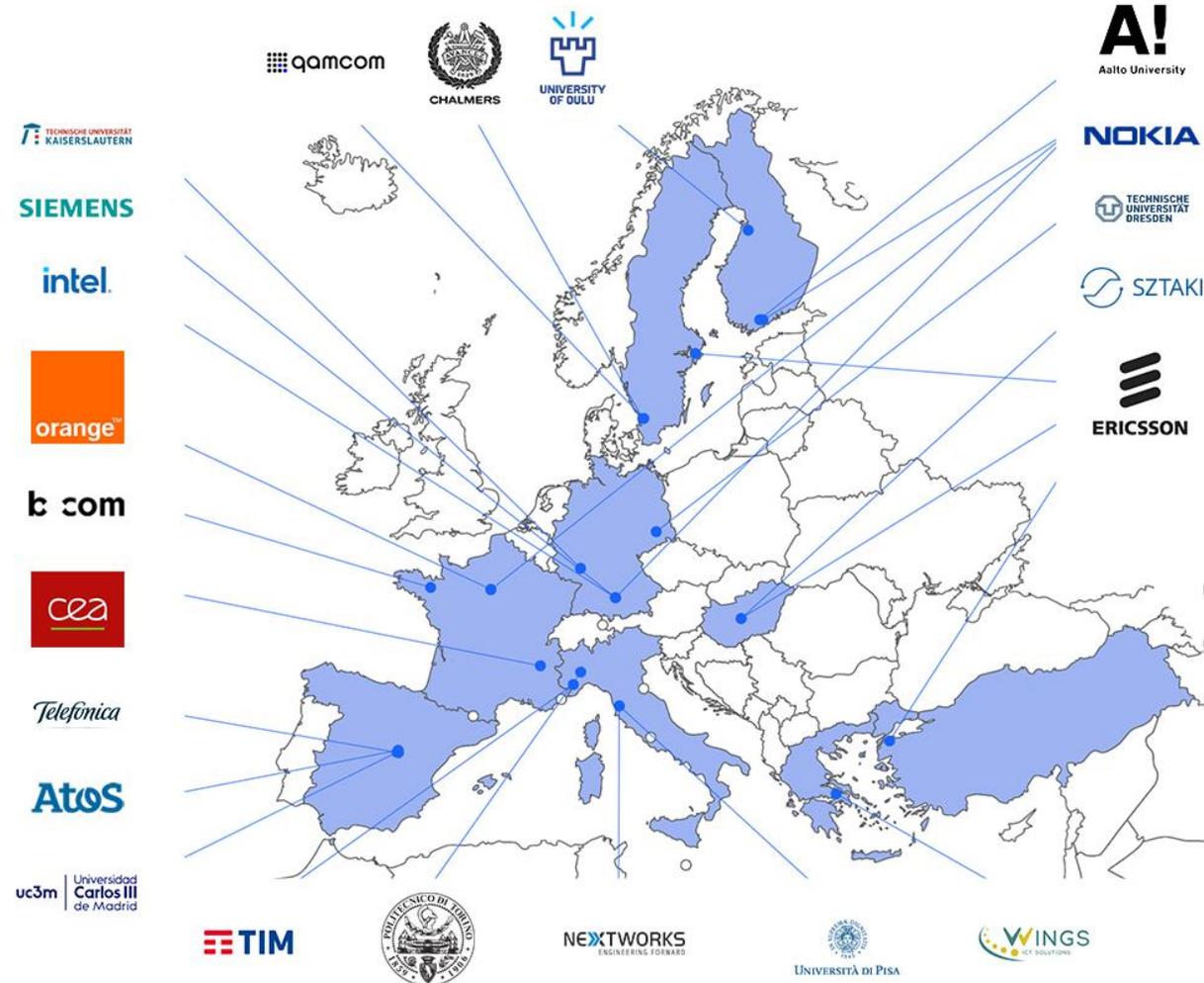
# HEXA-X: The European 6G flagship project



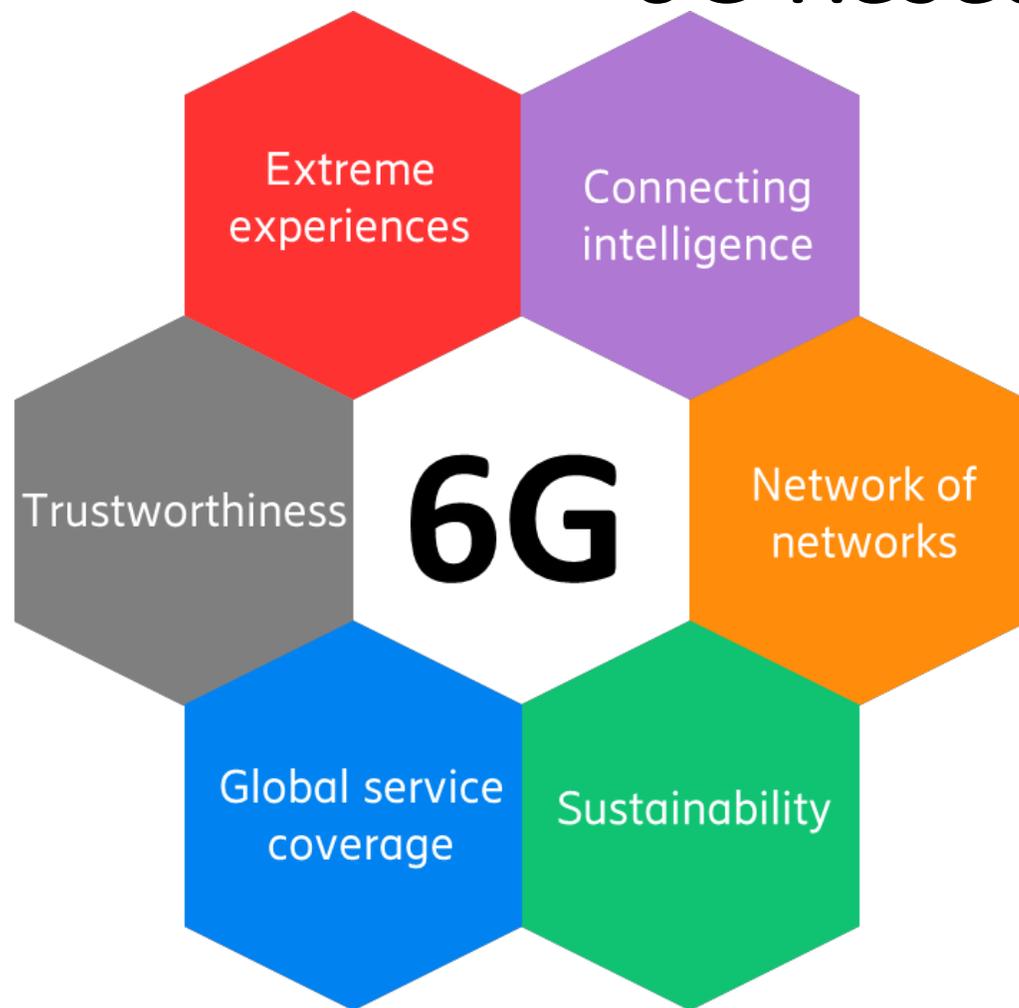
A flagship for B5G/6G vision and intelligent fabric of technology enablers connecting human, physical, and digital worlds.

Jan 2021 – June 2023

EU project: **HEXA-X** - Programme: Horizon 2020 - Grant Agreement ID: 101015956



# 6G Research Challenges



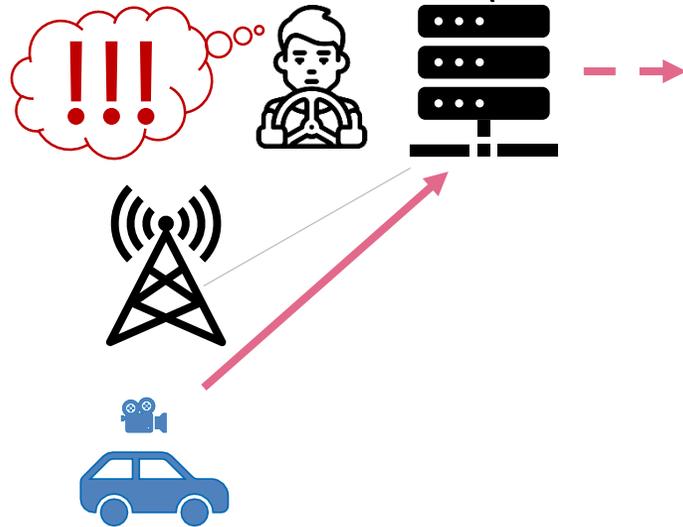
**Connecting intelligence:** 6G shall enable **real-time and vital and fully trusted AI/ML technologies** for significantly improved efficiency and service experience, with the human factor (“**human in the loop**”) integrated.

**Trustworthiness:** 6G shall ensure the **confidentiality, integrity and availability** of end-to-end communications, and guarantee **data privacy, operation resilience and security**, building trust of wireless networks as well as its enabled applications among consumers and enterprises.

# Vehicular network case study

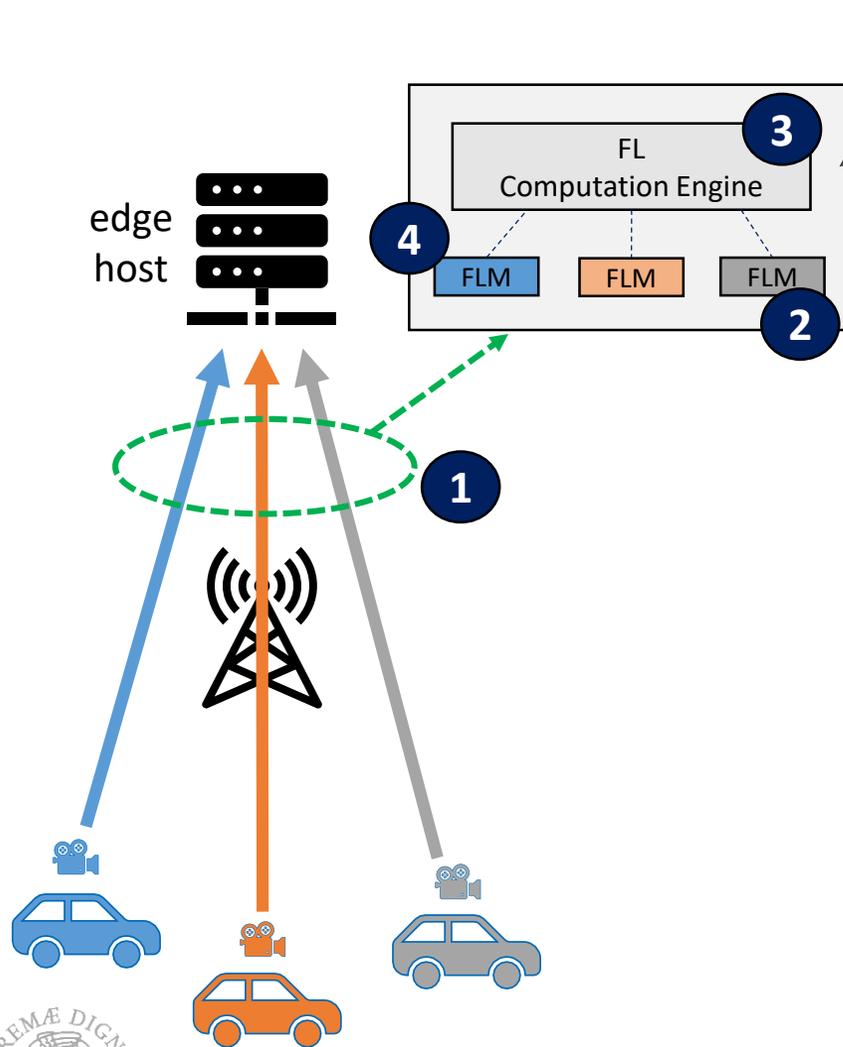
## Tele-operated driving (ToD): one of the innovative services envisioned in 6G systems

- Connected cars send real-time video streams representing the pilot-seat view to a remote driver at the edge
- The remote driver (human or machine) can control the car by sending commands based on the video



- It is crucial to be able to **predict any fluctuations** of video quality **in advance**
- A simulation campaign generates the training dataset for 15 clients, based on realistic traffic data from TIM
- **Regression task:** Predict *future* Quality of Experience given *historical values* of Quality of Service and contextual metrics

# Vehicular network case study



Edge-based **Federated Learning as a Service (FLaaS)** framework

## Training phase

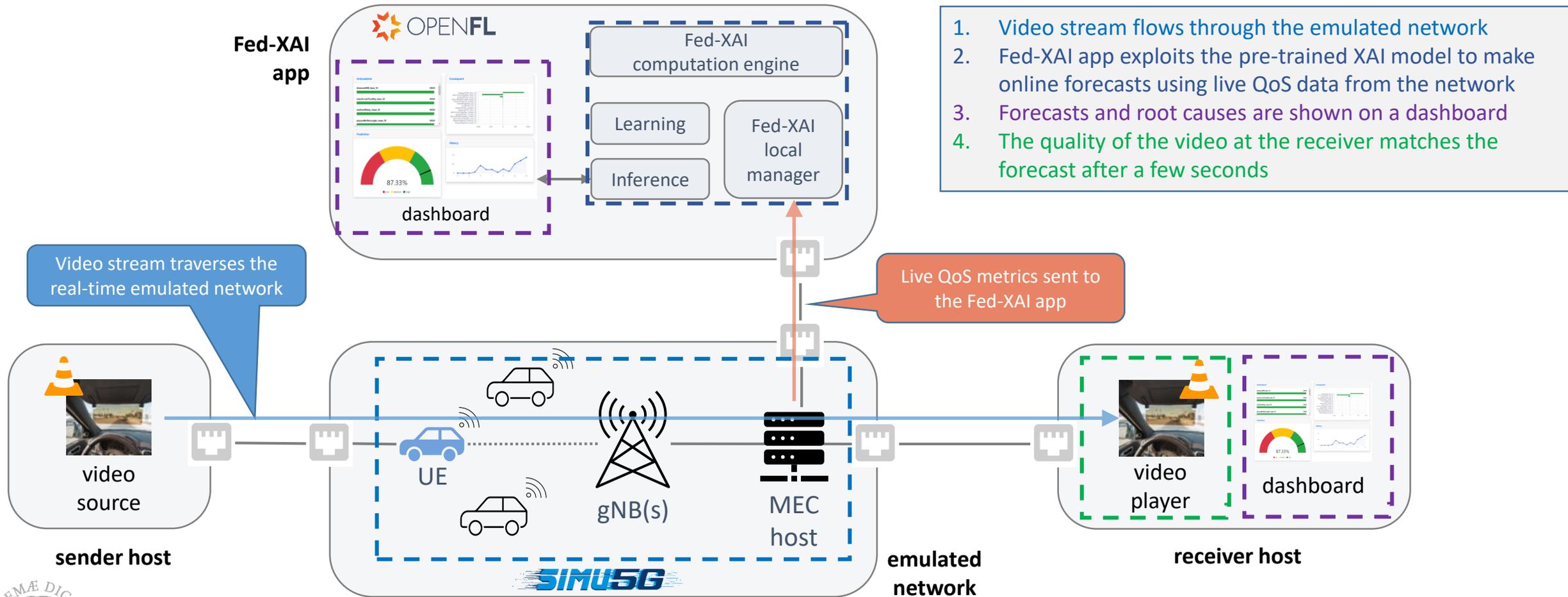
1. While User Equipments' (UEs') video streams are being transmitted, **QoS metrics are collected** from the receiving application (e.g., delay) and the network (e.g., cell load)
2. For each UE, a FL Local Manager (FLM) at the UE/edge **learns a local XAI model**
3. A FL Computation Engine **builds a global XAI model** by aggregating local ones received from FLMs. The global XAI model is then provided to the FLMs

## Inference phase

4. Using the live QoS metrics and the global XAI model, each FLM **predicts** the future video quality for the UE, showing it on a **dashboard** in real time

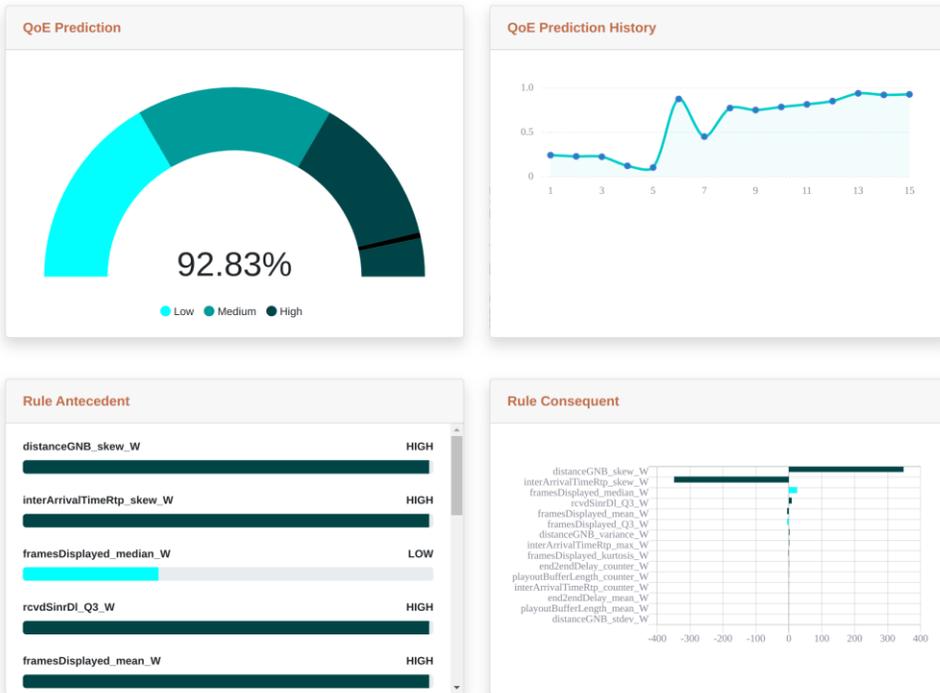
# Vehicular network case study

**Real-time testbed** composed of real devices running real apps, and a network emulator



# Fed-XAI Dashboard

## Fed-XAI Dashboard



View at inference time

- **Prediction:** predicted value
- **History:** track of past prediction values
- **Antecedents:** antecedent values, sorted by weights in consequent
- **Consequent:** weights of each feature for current prediction

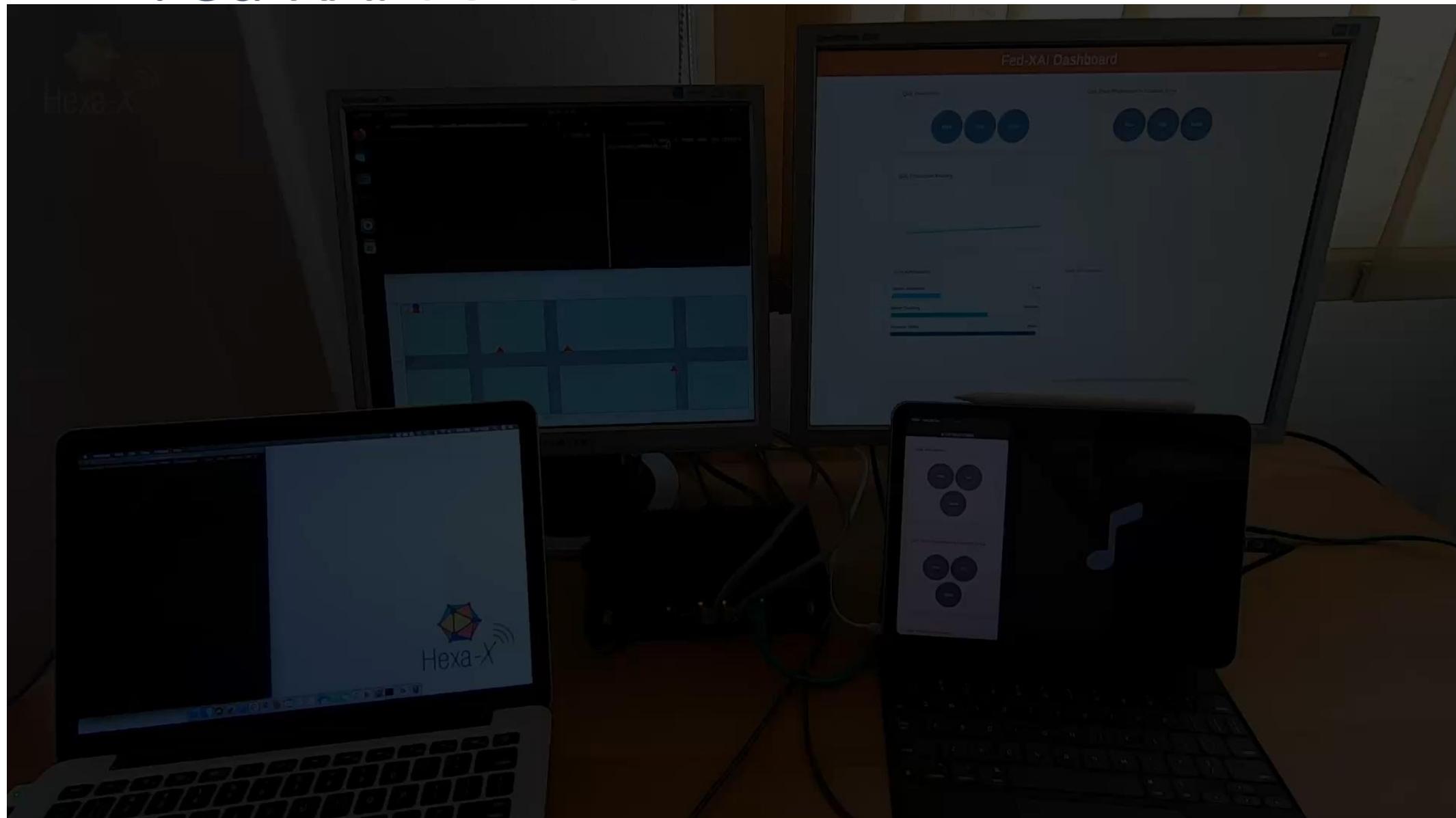


explainability information can be leveraged to identify **potential countermeasure** to be taken

$R_k$  : IF *framesDisplayed\_Q3* is High  
AND *framesDisplayed\_mean* is Medium  
AND *playoutBufferLength\_mean* is Medium  
AND *interArrivalTimeRtp\_max* is High  
AND *framesDisplayed\_median* is Low  
AND *playoutBufferLength\_counter* is Medium  
AND *distanceBS\_variance* is Low  
AND *distanceBS\_stdev* is Low  
AND *interArrivalTimeRtp\_counter* is High  
AND *interArrivalTimeRtp\_skew* is High  
AND *framesDisplayed\_kurtosis* is Low  
AND *end2endDelay\_mean* is High  
AND *rcvdSinrDl\_Q3* is Medium  
AND *end2endDelay\_counter* is High  
AND *distanceBS\_skew* is Medium  
THEN :  $QoE = -0.210$   
+ 0.246 · *framesDisplayed\_Q3*  
+ 0.465 · *framesDisplayed\_mean*  
+ 0.636 · *playoutBufferLength\_mean*  
- 0.291 · *interArrivalTimeRtp\_max*  
+ 0 · *framesDisplayed\_median*  
+ 0.293 · *playoutBufferLength\_counter*  
+ 0.001 · *distanceBS\_variance*  
+ 0.019 · *distanceBS\_stdev*  
+ 0.223 · *interArrivalTimeRtp\_counter*  
- 0.21 · *interArrivalTimeRtp\_skew*  
+ 0 · *framesDisplayed\_kurtosis*  
- 0.257 · *end2endDelay\_mean*  
+ 0.454 · *rcvdSinrDl\_Q3*  
+ 0.223 · *end2endDelay\_counter*  
- 0.031 · *distanceBS\_skew*

# Fed-XAI demo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azuTyB-LdmQ>



# Fed-XAI application - Implementation Details

## Federated Learning Framework

- **OpenFL** framework, developed by Intel and now hosted by The Linux Foundation
  - Seamless integration with containers paradigm
  - Highly flexible, although designed for the aggregation of models like NNs, (i.e. via FedAvg)
- Extended to support FL of inherently interpretable models
  - **OpenFL-XAI** just released <https://github.com/Unipisa/OpenFL-XA>.
- Actively employed within Hexa-X European project
- Supports research, development, and demonstration activities concerning the FL of XAI models



# Post-Hoc Explainability: SHAP

- Alternative approach: Generate a black box model and then try to explain why the inputs produce that output
- Shapley values quantify the impact of each feature on model prediction

## Shapley Values in XAI

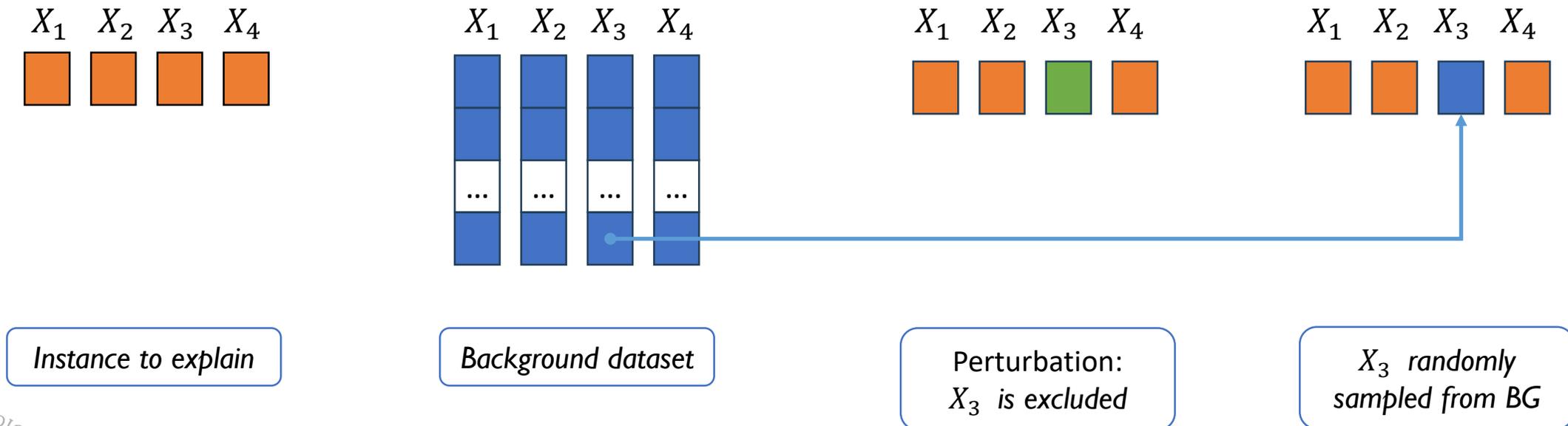
$$\hat{y}_i = f(x_i) = \phi_0 + \sum_{j=1}^F \phi_j$$

- $f$  Predictive model
- $x_i$  Generic  $F$ -dimensional input instance
- $\phi_0$  Average of the predictions from a *background dataset*
- $\phi_i$  Shapley values

- **Local**, i.e., explains individual predictions
- **KernelShap** variant: linear regression-based approximation
  - More **efficient** than naive calculation
  - **Model-agnostic**, suited for both classification and regression tasks

# Challenge of adopting SHAP in the FL setting

- Estimation of Shapley values for the explanations for  $x_i$  involves testing *coalitions* of features by *perturbing*  $x_i$
- A **background dataset (BG)** is exploited for perturbing  $x_i$ 
  - Replace features excluded from a coalition with those of instances randomly sampled from BG
  - The BG should coincide with the set of data used for learning the  $f$  model (i.e., the **training set**)
  - It is a common practice to reduce the numerosity of the BG (e.g., through sampling)



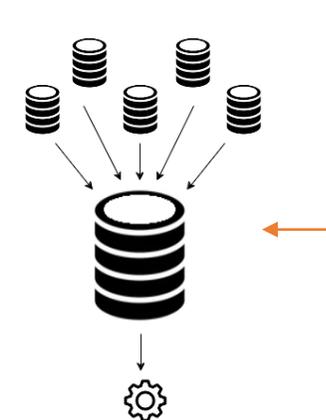
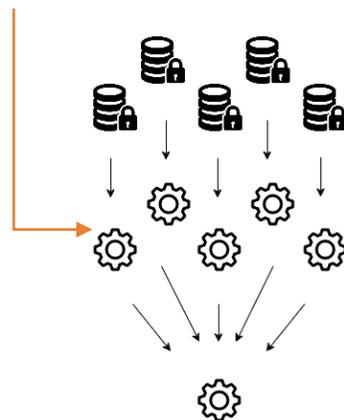
# Challenge of adopting SHAP in the FL setting

## Challenges

- The choice of the **background dataset** impacts the resulting explanations
- In the FL setting the **training set is not available in its entirety** to any party

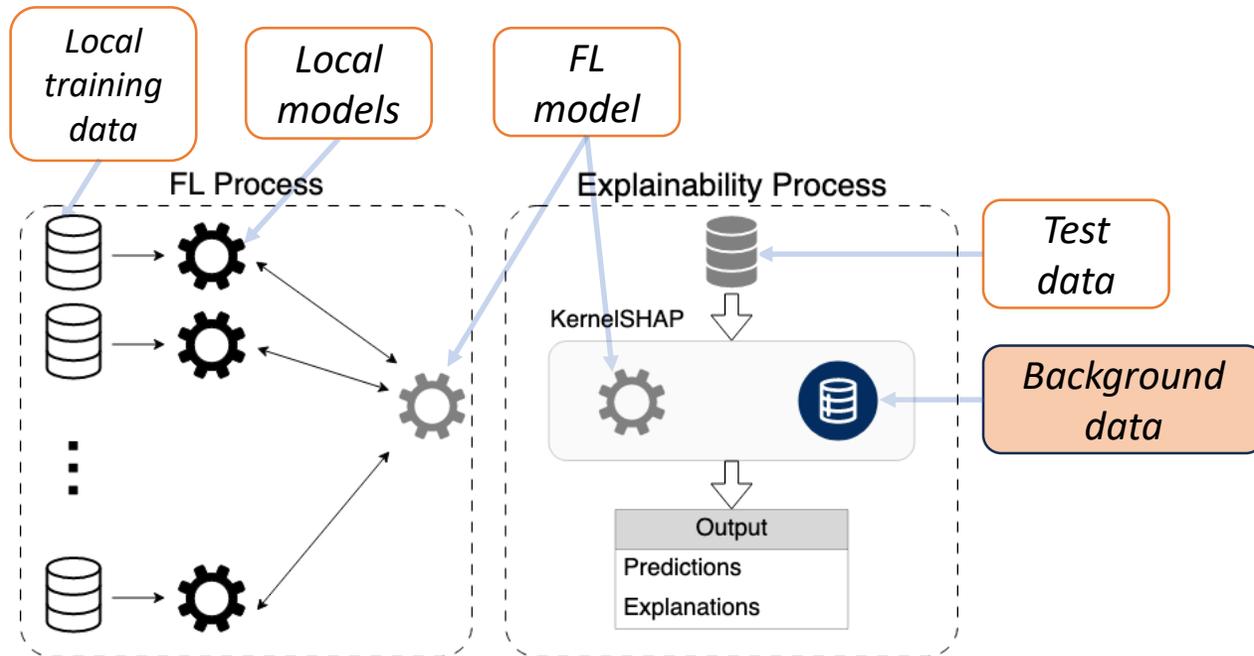
## Desiderata

- **Privacy preservation:** the explainability process should not violate privacy (as a constrain of the FL setting)
- **Consistency:** explanations of the same data instance for the FL model are identical for different participants
- **Accuracy:** explanations in FL match those that would be obtained in the traditional centralized setting



# Federated SHAP – how to design a *proper* and *common* background dataset

- **Start** communication topology with **horizontally** partitioned data
- The model learned in a federation fashion is **opaque** (it requires post-hoc techniques)
- **non-i.i.d. setting**: local data follow distributions different from each other and from the overall distribution



## Background dataset generation through Federated Fuzzy Clustering

- **Privacy preserving** summarization of scattered data
- **Cluster centers** are exploited as background
  - **common**, i.e., shared to all participants
  - **representative** of the entire data distribution
- **Federated-FCM\*** is adopted but the choice of the clustering algorithm is not critical for our objective

\*Corcuera Bárcena et al. *A federated fuzzy c-means clustering algorithm.* (2021)

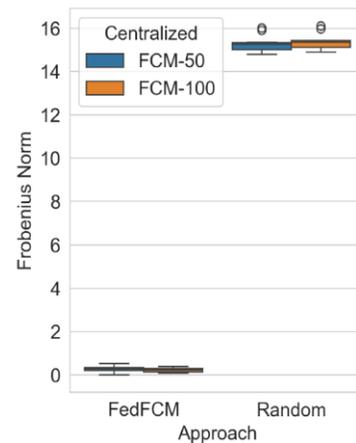


# Experimental setup – Baseline approaches

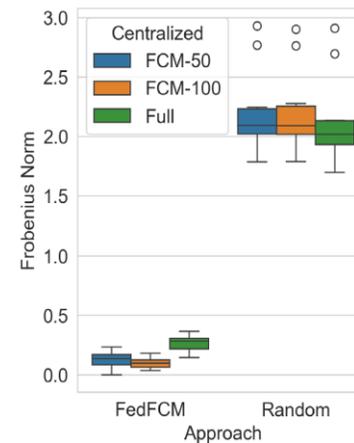
*BG = Background dataset	Ensure consistency (same background for all participants)	Ensure accuracy (represent the actual overall data distribution)	Preserve privacy
<b>Federated SHAP</b> BG $\leftarrow$ $K$ cluster centers obtained through Federated FCM	✓	✓	✓
<b>Centralized</b> BG $\leftarrow$ union of the data locally stored in the clients	✓	✓	✗
<b>Random</b> BG $\leftarrow$ randomly sampling $K$ instances from a uniform distribution over the input space	✓	✗	✓
<b>Local<sup>m</sup></b> BG <sup>m</sup> $\leftarrow$ $K$ cluster centers obtained through local FCM on the $m$ -th participant	✗	✗	✓

# Accuracy of explanations

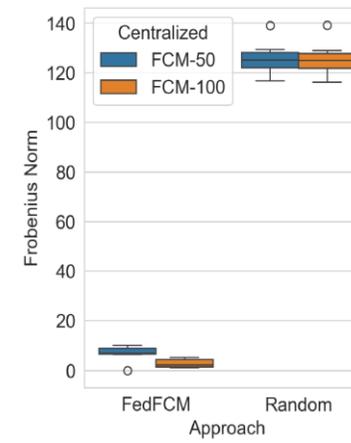
- **Accuracy**  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$  explanations match those that would be obtained in the traditional *centralized* setting
- Three *centralized* versions
  - **BG**  $\leftarrow$  Full training
  - **BG**  $\leftarrow$  FCM, 50 centers
  - **BG**  $\leftarrow$  FCM, 100 centers
- Ten values for each approach with different random seed



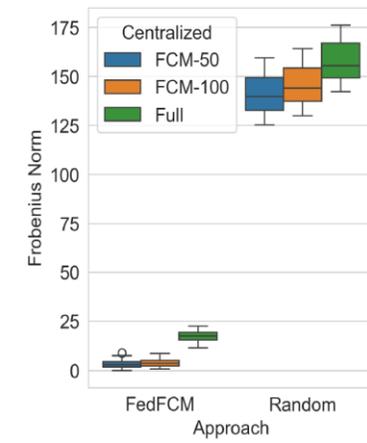
(a) Magic



(b) Rice



(c) California



(d) Abalone

Discrepancy of both the **Federated SHAP (FedFCM)** and the **Random** approach with the baseline centralized approaches in terms of Frobenius norm of the pairwise difference of  $\phi$  matrices

- **Federated SHAP:** low discrepancy with the *centralized* case, low variability
- **Random:** high discrepancy with the *centralized* case, high variability

# Challenges and future directions

- Not Independent and Identically distributed (**Non-IID**) data
- Federated Learning with **Streaming Data**
- **Privacy protection**: It is still not clear to what extent these methods harm the data privacy, and there is no quantitative measures to identify the degree of privacy leakage.
- **Large number of hyperparameters** (total number of clients, number of local epochs, client dropout probability)
- Lack of **universally recognized benchmark datasets**
- Research on **Federated Clustering** is still very limited although there exist a number of interesting application domains

**THANK  
YOU**

I would like to thank the members of the AI group at the Department of Information Engineering



**Questions?**

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