

# **Federated Multi-Task Attention for Cross-Individual Human Activity Recognition**

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# **MOTIVATION**

# ■ **Motivation**

## **METHODOLOGY**

# **EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

## p **Model Comparison** p **Feature Visualization**





Figure 3: Visualization of attention-based mask on the HHAR and ExtraSensory datasets.

## p **Model Adaptation** p **Parameter Sensitivity**



Figure 4: Evaluation of training epochs.



## p **Core Idea**

We introduced FedMAT, a novel federated learning framework for cross-individual sensor-based activity recognition that effectively addresses the heterogeneity in sensory feature distribution across different individuals. FedMAT works by extracting both shared and individual-specific features for attention-based multi-modal sensor fusion in the setting of FL.



Figure 1: Importance of different features for 3 activities from 10 different individuals in ExtraSensory dataset. Saturation indicates higher relevance. The images indicate that the features important for recognizing any given activity strongly depend on the target user.

- Human Activity Recognition (HAR) involves collecting and processing personal behavior data for training purposes, which has important consequences in terms of data privacy.
- Same activity can be performed differently by different individuals, inducing a substantial crossindividual discrepancy in the conditional distribution of activities given sensor observations.
- As shown in the right figure, a motivating experiment indicates that the sensors that contribute the most to recognizing certain activities strongly depend on the target individual.

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- The embedding network use a CNN-RNN architecture;
- We then apply a Fourier transform to compute frequency-domain information;
- Modality-specific CNN is applied to each sensor separately;
- Multimodal fusion CNN is then applied to the concatenation of the individual sensor embeddings;



We apply the attention-based mask to the feature representation layers, aiming at extracting individualspecific information. The detailed structure of the attention-based mask is shown in Fig. 2, consisting of multiple convolutional blocks for extracting task-specific features.

## p **Architecture Overview**

The proposed architecture consists of a central model, with parameters  $\Theta_c$ , and m decentralized models  $\mathcal{W}_u, u \in$  $\{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  that learn individual-specific features. The overall goal is to acquire a HAR model that generalizes (i) across observed individuals, represented by  $\mathcal{U}$ , and (ii) to new individuals outside of  $U$ .

$$
\min_{\Theta_c, \mathcal{W}_u} \sum_{u=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^{n_u} l_u(f_u(x_u^i; \Theta_c, \mathcal{W}_u), y_u^i). \tag{1}
$$

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## p **Embedding Network**

• Gate Recurrent Unit (GRU) layers are used to extract temporal relevance.

## $\Box$  **Federated Model Update p D** Attention-based Mask

## Algorithm 1 FedMAT.

**Input:** m individual-specific data sets  $\{\mathcal{D}_u\}$ , one per client. **Output:** central model  $\Theta_c$ , individual-specific models  $\{\mathcal{W}_u\}.$ 

- 1: Server: Initialize central model  $\Theta_c \leftarrow \Theta_0$
- 2: for  $round = 1, 2, ...$  do
- for each  $u \in \{1, 2, ..., m\}$  in parallel do  $3:$
- Client u: Get central model  $\Theta_c$  from the server.  $4:$
- Client  $u$ : Train for  $n$  epochs using central model  $5:$  $\Theta_c$  together with local model  $\mathcal{W}_u$ , and get locally updated parameters  $\Theta_u$  and  $\mathcal{W}_u$ .
- Client u: Push updated parameters  $\Theta_u$  to server. 6:
- end for  $7:$

**Server:** Update  $\Theta_c$  according to Eq. 2 8:

9: end for

10: **return**  $\Theta_c$  and  $\{\mathcal{W}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{W}_m\}$ 

Client Model  $\mathcal{W}_u$ 

Figure 2: Architecture of FedMAT. Structures of the central model and one of the client models are visualized.

Specifically, we refer the shared features in the *l-th* layer of the shared network as *el* , and the learned attention mask in this layer for individual *u* as  $e_u^l$ . The task-specific features  $\hat{e}_u^l$  in this layer, are then computed by element-wise multiplication of the attention masks with the shared features:

$$
s_u^l = Mask_u^l \odot p^j. \tag{4}
$$

For the attention mask in layer j, the input the concatenation of the shared features  $p<sup>j</sup>$ , and the taskspecific features from the previous layer  $\hat{a}_i^{j-1}$ :

$$
Mask_u^l = h(g([p^l; f(\hat{e}_u^{(l-1)})])). \tag{5}
$$