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LearnDefend: Learning to Defend against Backdoor Attacks on Federated Learning

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Federated Learning



Backdoor Attacks

- Subtype of data poisoning
- Images with certain features are labeled differently
- Backdoor features can be artificial or natural
- Overall classification accuracy remains the same



Original image

Single-Pixel Backdoor



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Motivation

- State-of-the-art defense techniques [2] fail to defend FL against backdoors.
- Wang et al. [5] concluded that no fixed defense rule can stop the backdoor attacks on federated learning system.
- So, it becomes a necessity to develop robust defense techniques which can defend FL against backdoors.
- This motivates us to ask the following research question: Can an unlabelled mix of both clean and poisoned datapoints help us in learning a defense against the latest attacks ?

Problem Definition

- To design and develop a robust defense called LearnDefend in order to defend FL against backdoors.
- To check the effectiveness of the learned defense against the backdoors.
- To compare the learned defense with SOTA defenses[2] against backdoors in FL.

Overview of LearnDefend











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Experimental Results

Experimental Setup

- Dataset used CIFAR-10
- Model Used VGG-9
- Total number of participants/clients: K =200
- Number of participants selected per round: m = 10
- Clients train dataset: To simulate non-i.i.d training data, we divided 50,000 CIFAR-10 train images heterogeneously to 200 clients.
- ♦ Defense Dataset (D_d) →500 samples (400 clean + 100 backdoored),
 D_{clean} = 100 clean samples from D_d (20%)

Performance Metric

Main Task Accuracy is calculated on 10000 CIFAR10 test set images.

Target Task/Backdoor Accuracy is calculated on 196 Backdoored images.

Results and Analysis

Defenses	Main Task Accuracy	Target Task/ Backdoor Accuracy
EDGE CASE		
Krum [2]	82.34%	59.69%
Multi-Krum [2]	84.47%	56.63%
Bulyan [3]	84.48%	60.20%
Trimmed Mean [6]	84.42%	63.23%
Median [6]	62.40%	37.35%
LearnDefend	84.49%	15.30%
TRIGGER PATCH		
Krum [2]	81.36%	100.00%
Multi-Krum [2]	84.45%	76.44%
Bulyan [3]	84.46%	100.00%
Trimmed Mean [6]	84.43%	44.39%
Median [6]	62.16%	31.03%
LearnDefend	84.47%	2.04%

Table 1: Comparing the Main task and Backdoor accuracy of various defenses under PGD with replacement after 1500 FL iterations.

• We can see that LearnDefend has lower backdoor accuracy compared to other defenses for both the datasets.

Conclusion

- We propose LearnDefend to defend against backdoors in Federated Learning.
- Our method does a weighted averaging of the clients' updates by learning weights for the client models based on the defense dataset.
- We learn to rank the defense examples as poisoned, through an alternating minimization algorithm.
- The results are found to be highly convincing and emerged as a useful application for defending against backdoors in Federated Learning.



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