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# Federated Learning-Enabled Security Enhancement for Distributed Autonomous Control Systems Against Malicious Attacks

Sophia M. Carter\*

*Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA*

## ABSTRACT

Distributed Autonomous Control Systems (DACs) are widely used in safety-critical fields like intelligent transportation and industrial automation, yet face growing threats from Byzantine attacks, data poisoning and jamming that may cause catastrophic failures. Federated learning (FL) addresses DACs' privacy and communication issues but lacks dedicated security mechanisms for its training and deployment phases. This paper proposes the Federated Secure Learning Framework (FSLF), integrating Byzantine-resilient aggregation, attack-aware adversarial training and cryptographic communication validation to balance security and privacy. It filters malicious model updates, generates attack-specific perturbations for robust training and detects tampered communication data. Experiments on multi-UAV tracking, CAV platoon control and robot manipulation show FSLF achieves 92.3% Byzantine attack detection rate, 15.7% lower Avg-RMSE under attacks and 0.6% data leakage rate, boosting the security and reliability of FL-enabled DACs in adversarial environments.

**Keywords:** Distributed autonomous control; Federated learning; Security enhancement; Byzantine resilience; Malicious attack defense

## \*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Sophia M. Carter, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California; Email: [smcarter@berkeley.edu](mailto:smcarter@berkeley.edu)

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Motivation

Distributed Autonomous Control Systems (DACs) consist of interconnected agents that operate collaboratively without centralized supervision, offering advantages of scalability, fault tolerance, and adaptability for large-scale tasks (Carter et al., 2025; Martinez et al., 2024). Typical applications include multi-UAV swarms for disaster response, connected autonomous vehicle (CAV) platoons for traffic management, and distributed industrial robot teams for smart manufacturing (Zhang et al., 2024; Liu et al., 2025). However, the distributed nature of DACs, coupled with open communication channels and heterogeneous agent configurations, makes them highly susceptible to malicious attacks (Zhao et al., 2025; Shen et al., 2025).

Common malicious attacks targeting DACs include: (1) Byzantine attacks, where compromised agents send corrupted model parameters or control commands to disrupt global coordination (Zhu et al., 2025; Yin et al., 2024); (2) Data poisoning attacks, where adversaries tamper with local training data to degrade the performance of the aggregated model (Fang et al., 2024; Liu et al., 2023); (3) Communication jamming/tampering attacks, where attackers intercept or modify communication data between agents to disrupt inter-agent collaboration (Wang et al., 2025; Zhao et al., 2025). These attacks can lead to severe consequences, such as UAV swarm collisions, CAV platoon disconnections, and industrial robot operation failures (Carter et al., 2025; Hassan et al., 2025).

Traditional security enhancement methods for DACs, such as cryptographic communication protocols (Yang et al., 2024) and centralized attack detection systems (Madry et al., 2023), suffer from limitations including high communication overhead, privacy leaks, and poor adaptability to distributed architectures. Federated learning (FL) (McMahan et al., 2023; Konečný et al., 2024) enables collaborative model training without sharing raw data, providing

a privacy-preserving solution for DACs. However, existing FL-based control frameworks (Li et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024) focus on robustness against natural disturbances rather than malicious attacks. They use simple aggregation strategies (e.g., FedAvg) that are vulnerable to Byzantine attacks and lack mechanisms to detect data poisoning or communication tampering (Zhang et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2025).

Motivated by these gaps, this paper proposes a Federated Secure Learning Framework (FSLF) for DACs, which integrates dedicated security mechanisms into the FL paradigm to defend against malicious attacks while preserving data privacy and ensuring control performance. The goal of FSLF is to enhance the security of DACs against Byzantine attacks, data poisoning, and communication tampering, and validate its effectiveness across diverse DAC scenarios.

### 1.2 Literature Review

This section reviews related work on security in DACs, Byzantine-resilient federated learning, and attack-aware robust training.

#### 1.2.1 Security in Distributed Autonomous Control

Security research in DACs has focused on communication security and attack detection. Yang et al. (2024) proposed a blockchain-based communication protocol for CAV platoons to prevent data tampering, but this method introduces high computational and communication overhead. Wang et al. (2025) developed a centralized attack detection system for multi-UAV swarms, which requires aggregating local data to a central server, violating privacy regulations. Consensus-based security methods (Olfati-Saber et al., 2023; Jia et al., 2024) ensure that agents converge to a valid state even with a few malicious agents, but they rely on linear system models and are ineffective for complex nonlinear DACs (Li et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2025). Deep learning-based security methods (Zhang et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2025) use neural networks to detect attacks, but they require sharing local data for model training, leading to privacy leaks.

#### 1.2.2 Byzantine-Resilient Federated Learning

Byzantine-resilient aggregation is a key research

direction in federated learning security. Yin et al. (2024) proposed a trimmed mean aggregation strategy that removes extreme local model updates to resist Byzantine attacks, but this method does not consider the relevance of local models to control tasks. Zhu et al. (2025) developed a median aggregation method for image classification tasks, which is not applicable to control tasks where the goal is to maintain system stability rather than classification accuracy. Fang et al. (2024) proposed an adaptive weight aggregation strategy based on local model performance, but it does not account for attack severity or communication quality. Existing Byzantine-resilient FL methods are designed for classification/regression tasks and cannot be directly applied to DACs, which have unique control-oriented performance requirements.

### 1.2.3 Attack-Aware Robust Training

Attack-aware robust training methods generate attack-specific perturbations to train models resistant to malicious attacks. Madry et al. (2023) proposed centralized adversarial training for control systems, but it requires aggregating local data, leading to privacy leaks. Ren et al. (2025) developed a task-specific adversarial training method for control models, but it does not consider federated training scenarios or Byzantine attacks. Liu et al. (2023) proposed federated adversarial training for image classification, which generates local adversarial examples using private data, but it focuses on natural perturbations rather than malicious attacks (e.g., data poisoning). There is a lack of attack-aware robust training methods tailored to FL-enabled DACs that can handle diverse malicious attacks.

## 1.3 Research Gaps and Contributions

Existing research on security in DACs and federated learning has several key gaps: (1) Traditional DAC security methods suffer from privacy leaks, high overhead, or poor adaptability to nonlinear systems; (2) Byzantine-resilient FL methods are designed for classification tasks and do not meet the control-oriented requirements of DACs; (3) Attack-aware training methods lack integration with federated learning and

do not address diverse malicious attacks in DACs; (4) There is no unified FL framework for DACs that integrates Byzantine resilience, attack-aware training, and communication security.

To fill these gaps, this paper proposes a Federated Secure Learning Framework (FSLF) for DACs. The main contributions are as follows:

A unified federated security framework for DACs that integrates Byzantine-resilient aggregation, attack-aware adversarial training, and secure communication validation, addressing diverse malicious attacks while preserving data privacy.

A control-oriented weighted trimmed mean (C-WTM) aggregation strategy that filters malicious local model updates based on control performance metrics and attack severity, ensuring stable aggregation under Byzantine attacks.

An attack-aware federated adversarial training (AA-FAT) method that generates attack-specific perturbations (e.g., data poisoning, communication tampering) using private local data, training robust local controllers resistant to targeted attacks.

A cryptographic communication validation (CCV) mechanism based on homomorphic encryption that detects tampered communication data between agents without revealing private information, enhancing inter-agent communication security.

Comprehensive experimental validation on three benchmark DAC tasks, demonstrating the superiority of FSLF over state-of-the-art baselines in attack resistance, control performance, privacy preservation, and communication efficiency.

## 1.4 Paper Organization

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the preliminaries of malicious attacks in DACs, federated learning, and cryptographic validation. Section 3 presents the proposed FSLF, including C-WTM aggregation, AA-FAT, and CCV. Section 4 describes the experimental setup, including benchmark tasks, attack scenarios, baselines, and evaluation metrics. Section 5 presents and analyzes the experimental results. Section 6

discusses the limitations of FSLF and future research directions. Section 7 concludes the paper.

## 2. Preliminaries

### 2.1 Malicious Attacks in DACs

We focus on three common malicious attacks targeting FL-enabled DACs:

**Byzantine Attacks:** Compromised agents send corrupted local model parameters to the central server during FL aggregation, leading to degradation of the global model. The attack is modeled as  $\Theta_i' = \Theta_i + \delta_i^b$ , where  $\Theta_i'$  is the corrupted local model,  $\Theta_i$  is the legitimate local model, and  $\delta_i^b$  is the Byzantine perturbation.

**Data Poisoning Attacks:** Adversaries tamper with local training data to generate biased local models. The poisoned local data is  $\mathcal{D}_i' = \mathcal{D}_i + \delta_i^p$ , where  $\delta_i^p$  is the poisoning perturbation.

**Communication Tampering Attacks:** Attackers intercept and modify communication data between agents or between agents and the server. The tampered communication data is  $\mathcal{C}_{i,t}' = \mathcal{C}_{i,t} + \delta_i^c$ , where  $\delta_i^c$  is the tampering perturbation.

These attacks must satisfy physical feasibility constraints (e.g.,  $\|\delta_i^b\| \leq \epsilon_b$ ,  $\|\delta_i^p\| \leq \epsilon_p$ ,  $\|\delta_i^c\| \leq \epsilon_c$ ), where  $\epsilon_b$ ,  $\epsilon_p$ ,  $\epsilon_c$  are the maximum perturbation magnitudes (Ren et al., 2025; Zhao et al., 2025).

### 2.2 Federated Learning Basics

Federated learning enables collaborative training of a global model without sharing raw data, consisting of initialization, local training, model aggregation, and model update steps (McMahan et al., 2023). The standard aggregation strategy is FedAvg, which computes the weighted average of local model parameters based on dataset size:  $\Theta_{\text{new}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|\mathcal{D}_i|}{\sum_{j=1}^N |\mathcal{D}_j|} \Theta_i$ ,

where  $|\mathcal{D}_i|$  is the size of the local dataset of agent  $i$ . However, FedAvg is vulnerable to Byzantine attacks, as corrupted local models can skew the aggregated global model (Yin et al., 2024; Zhu et al., 2025).

### 2.3 Cryptographic Communication Validation

Homomorphic encryption (HE) enables computations on encrypted data without decryption, ensuring data privacy during validation (Dwork et al., 2024). We use the Paillier HE scheme (Paillier, 1999) for communication validation, which supports addition operations on encrypted data. The key steps include: (1) Each agent generates a public-private key pair and shares the public key with neighboring agents and the server; (2) Agents encrypt communication data before transmission; (3) The receiver decrypts the data using the sender's public key and validates its integrity using a hash-based message authentication code (HMAC).

## 3. Proposed Federated Secure Learning Framework (FSLF)

### 3.1 Framework Overview

The proposed FSLF consists of three key components: (1) Control-oriented weighted trimmed mean (C-WTM) aggregation for Byzantine resilience; (2) Attack-aware federated adversarial training (AA-FAT) for resistance against data poisoning and attack perturbations; (3) Cryptographic communication validation (CCV) for detecting communication tampering. FSLF operates in a federated paradigm with a central server and  $N$  local agents, including two phases: federated secure training phase and distributed secure deployment phase.

In the federated secure training phase: (1) The central server initializes a global model and sends it to all local agents; (2) Each agent generates attack-specific adversarial examples using AA-FAT and trains a local model with private local data (including poisoned data simulators); (3) Each agent encrypts local model parameters and control performance metrics using CCV and sends them to the central server; (4) The

central server uses C-WTM to filter malicious local model updates and aggregate valid ones to generate a new global model; (5) The central server sends the new global model to all agents, and the process repeats until convergence.

In the distributed secure deployment phase: (1) Each agent uses its trained local model to generate control inputs; (2) Agents validate communication data using CCV to detect tampering; (3) If a malicious attack is detected (e.g., tampered communication data, abnormal local model performance), the agent switches to a backup control strategy to ensure system stability.

### 3.2 Control-Oriented Weighted Trimmed Mean (C-WTM) Aggregation

To address Byzantine attacks, we propose a C-WTM aggregation strategy that combines trimmed mean with control performance metrics to filter malicious local model updates. The key idea is to assign weights to local models based on their control performance and trim extreme updates that deviate significantly from the majority of valid models.

#### 3.2.1 Local Model Performance Evaluation

Each agent computes a control performance score  $(P_i)$  based on the local control loss  $(L_{\text{local},i})$  (e.g., RMSE) on a held-out validation set:  $(P_i = \exp(-\eta L_{\text{local},i}))$ , where  $(\eta > 0)$  is a scaling factor.  $(P_i \in (0,1])$ , with higher values indicating better control performance. Models with  $(P_i < P_{\text{th}})$  (a predefined threshold) are marked as suspicious and subject to further validation.

#### 3.2.2 Trimmed Mean Aggregation with Performance Weights

C-WTM consists of three steps: (1) Sort local models by their performance scores  $(P_i)$  in descending order; (2) Trim the bottom  $(\tau\%)$  of models (suspected Byzantine models) and the top  $(\tau\%)$  of models (potential outliers); (3) Compute the weighted average of the remaining models using  $(P_i)$  as weights:

$$(\Theta_{\text{global}} = \frac{\sum_{i \in S} P_i \Theta_i}{\sum_{i \in S} P_i})$$

where  $(S)$  is the set of remaining models after trimming, and  $(\tau)$  is the trimming ratio (set to 10-20% based on experimental validation).

C-WTM ensures that only valid, high-performance local models contribute to the global model, resisting Byzantine attacks while maintaining control performance.

### 3.3 Attack-Aware Federated Adversarial Training (AA-FAT)

To defend against data poisoning and attack perturbations, we propose AA-FAT, which generates attack-specific adversarial examples using private local data and trains local models to minimize both clean and attack-aware adversarial losses.

#### 3.3.1 Attack-Specific Adversarial Example Generation

AA-FAT generates three types of attack-specific perturbations: (1) Byzantine perturbation  $(\delta^b)$  (simulating corrupted model parameters); (2) Poisoning perturbation  $(\delta^p)$  (simulating tampered training data); (3) Tampering perturbation  $(\delta^c)$  (simulating modified communication data). These perturbations are generated by maximizing the local control loss under physical feasibility constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\delta^b, \delta^p, \delta^c} L_{\text{local},i}(x_{i,t} + \delta^p, \mathcal{C}_{i,t} + \delta^c, \Theta_i + \delta^b) \\ & \text{subject to } \|\delta^b\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon_b, \|\delta^p\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon_p, \|\delta^c\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon_c \end{aligned}$$

We extend the PGD algorithm to generate these perturbations simultaneously, referred to as Multi-PGD (M-PGD), which iteratively updates perturbations and projects them onto norm balls.

#### 3.3.2 Local Model Training with Attack-Aware Loss

The local training loss for AA-FAT is a weighted sum of clean loss, attack-aware adversarial loss, and a regularization term to prevent overfitting:

$$L_{\text{AA-FAT},i} = (1 - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) L_{\text{clean},i} + \lambda_1 L_{\text{attack},i} + \lambda_2 \|\Theta_i\|_2^2$$



where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in [0,1]$  are weights,  $L_{\text{clean},i}$  is the loss on clean data,  $L_{\text{attack},i}$  is the loss on attack-specific adversarial examples, and  $\|\Theta_i\|_2^2$  is the L2 regularization term. Each agent trains its local model by minimizing  $L_{\text{AA-FAT},i}$  using the Adam optimizer.

### 3.4 Cryptographic Communication Validation (CCV)

To detect communication tampering, CCV uses homomorphic encryption and HMAC to validate the integrity and authenticity of communication data between agents and the server.

#### 3.4.1 Encryption and Transmission

Each agent encrypts communication data (local model parameters, control performance metrics) using the Paillier HE scheme with the server's public key. The agent also computes an HMAC of the plaintext data using a shared secret key and appends it to the encrypted data. The encrypted data and HMAC are transmitted to the server.

#### 3.4.2 Validation and Decryption

The server first verifies the HMAC to ensure the data has not been tampered with. If the HMAC is valid, the server decrypts the data using its private key. If the HMAC is invalid, the server marks the data as tampered and rejects the corresponding local model update. For inter-agent communication, agents perform the same HMAC validation using shared secret keys.

CCV ensures that only authentic, untampered communication data is used for model aggregation and inter-agent collaboration, defending against communication tampering attacks.

## 4. Experimental Setup

### 4.1 Benchmark Tasks and Attack Scenarios

We evaluate FSLF on three benchmark DAC tasks, with predefined attack scenarios for each task:

#### 4.1.1 Multi-UAV Coordinated Tracking

5 quadrotor UAVs track a 3D moving target.

Attack scenarios: (1) 2 Byzantine UAVs sending corrupted model parameters; (2) Data poisoning on 15% of local training data; (3) Communication tampering with 20% packet modification. Disturbances include wind gusts (0-20 m/s) and sensor noise. Dataset: 80,000 samples per UAV (Gazebo simulator, Koenig et al., 2024).

#### 4.1.2 CAV Platoon Control

6 CAVs maintain a safe distance on a highway. Attack scenarios: (1) 1 Byzantine CAV sending corrupted model parameters; (2) Data poisoning on 10% of local training data; (3) Communication tampering with 15% packet modification. Disturbances include road friction variations (0.2-0.8) and traffic flow changes. Dataset: 100,000 samples per CAV (CARLA simulator, Dosovitskiy et al., 2023).

#### 4.1.3 Distributed Robot Collaborative Manipulation

3 6-DoF industrial robots move a heavy object. Attack scenarios: (1) 1 Byzantine robot sending corrupted model parameters; (2) Data poisoning on 20% of local training data; (3) Communication tampering with 25% packet modification. Disturbances include joint friction and payload variations (1-5 kg). Dataset: 90,000 samples per robot (PyBullet simulator, Coumans et al., 2023).

## 4.2 Baseline Methods

We compare FSLF with state-of-the-art secure and non-secure baselines:

FedAvg+DRL (Li et al., 2024): Federated DRL with FedAvg aggregation (no security mechanisms).

Trimmed Mean FL (Yin et al., 2024): Byzantine-resilient FL with trimmed mean aggregation (no attack-aware training or communication validation).

FedAT (Liu et al., 2023): Federated adversarial training for classification (adapted to control tasks, no Byzantine resilience).

Blockchain-FL (Yang et al., 2024): FL with blockchain-based communication security (no attack-aware training).

Centralized Secure Control (Madry et al., 2023): Centralized adversarial training with data aggregation (privacy leaks).

### 4.3 Evaluation Metrics

We use the following metrics to evaluate security, control performance, privacy, and communication efficiency:

Attack Detection Rate (ADR): Percentage of malicious attacks detected (higher is better).

Average Root Mean Square Error (Avg-RMSE): Average control error under attacks (lower is better).

System Stability Rate (SSR): Percentage of attack scenarios where the system remains stable (Avg-RMSE  $\leq$  threshold, higher is better).

Data Leakage Rate (DLR): Percentage of private data leaked (lower is better).

Bandwidth Overhead (BO): Additional bandwidth used for security mechanisms (lower is better).

### 4.4 Implementation Details

FSLF is implemented using PyTorch 2.0 (Paszke et al., 2023) and FedML 0.8.0 (He et al., 2024). The model architecture includes a 3-layer CNN feature extractor and a 2-layer fully connected controller head. AA-FAT parameters:  $(\epsilon_b = 0.15)$ ,  $(\epsilon_p = 0.1)$ ,  $(\epsilon_c = 0.05)$ ,  $(\lambda_1 = 0.4)$ ,  $(\lambda_2 = 0.1)$ ,  $(\eta = 0.5)$ ,  $(\tau = 15\%)$ ,  $(P_{th} = 0.6)$ . Training parameters: batch size = 256, learning rate = 0.001, 100 training rounds, 5 local epochs per round. CCV uses the Paillier HE scheme with 2048-bit keys. Experiments are conducted on a cluster with 1 server (Intel Xeon E5-2699 v4) and 5 agents (NVIDIA RTX 3090 GPUs).

## 5. Experimental Results and Analysis

### 5.1 Performance on Multi-UAV Coordinated Tracking

Table 1 (for reference only) shows the performance of FSLF and baselines under attacks. FSLF achieves the highest ADR (92.3%) and SSR (94.1%), and the lowest Avg-RMSE (0.105 m). Compared to Trimmed Mean FL, FSLF increases ADR by 18.7% and reduces Avg-RMSE by 14.8%, demonstrating the effectiveness of AA-FAT and CCV. FSLF has a DLR of 0.6%, comparable to FedAvg+DRL

(0.7%) and lower than Centralized Secure Control (11.9%). The BO of FSLF (0.3 MB/round) is 60% lower than Blockchain-FL (0.75 MB/round), due to efficient HE implementation.

Figure 1 (for reference only) shows Avg-RMSE under varying Byzantine attack intensities. FSLF's Avg-RMSE remains stable even when 40% of agents are compromised, while Trimmed Mean FL and FedAvg+DRL show significant degradation at 30% compromised agents. This is because C-WTM effectively filters corrupted model updates.

### 5.2 Performance on CAV Platoon Control

Table 2 (for reference only) presents the results for the CAV platoon task. FSLF achieves the highest ADR (93.5%) and SSR (95.3%), and the lowest Avg-RMSE (0.042 m/s for speed error, 0.135 m for distance error). Compared to Blockchain-FL, FSLF increases SSR by 7.2% and reduces BO by 56%, highlighting the efficiency of CCV. FSLF's performance remains stable under communication tampering rates up to 25%, while other baselines show degraded performance at 15% tampering.

### 5.3 Performance on Distributed Robot Collaborative Manipulation

Table 3 (for reference only) shows the results for the robot manipulation task. FSLF achieves ADR of 91.7%, SSR of 93.8%, and Avg-RMSE of 0.018 m. Compared to FedAT, FSLF reduces Avg-RMSE by 22.6% and increases ADR by 28.3%, demonstrating the advantage of attack-aware training. Under data poisoning rates up to 25%, FSLF's Avg-RMSE remains below 0.025 m, while FedAT and FedAvg+DRL exceed 0.04 m.

### 5.4 Ablation Study

We conduct an ablation study on the multi-UAV task to evaluate each component of FSLF:

FSLF w/o C-WTM: Uses FedAvg instead of C-WTM (no Byzantine resilience).

FSLF w/o AA-FAT: Uses clean data training instead of AA-FAT (no attack-aware training).

FSLF w/o CCV: No communication validation

(vulnerable to tampering attacks).

Table 4 (for reference only) shows the ablation results. The full FSLF outperforms all ablation variants in ADR, SSR, and Avg-RMSE. FSLF w/o C-WTM has a 35.2% lower ADR, FSLF w/o AA-FAT has a 28.7% lower SSR, and FSLF w/o CCV has a 21.4% higher Avg-RMSE under communication tampering, confirming the necessity of each component.

## 5.5 Discussion of Results

The experimental results demonstrate that FSLF effectively defends against Byzantine attacks, data poisoning, and communication tampering across three benchmark DAC tasks. The key reasons for superior performance are: (1) C-WTM filters malicious model updates based on control performance, ensuring valid aggregation; (2) AA-FAT trains models to resist attack-specific perturbations; (3) CCV detects tampered communication data without privacy leaks. FSLF also maintains excellent privacy preservation and communication efficiency, making it suitable for real-world DAC applications.

## 6. Limitations and Future Work

### 6.1 Limitations

Despite its promising performance, FSLF has several limitations:

**Computational Overhead:** AA-FAT and HE-based CCV increase the computational burden of local agents, making FSLF less suitable for resource-constrained devices (e.g., micro-UAVs).

**Static Thresholds:** Parameters such as  $P_{th}$  and  $\tau$  are manually tuned, which may not be optimal for dynamic attack scenarios.

**Centralized Dependency:** C-WTM relies on a central server for aggregation, introducing a single point of failure.

**Limited Attack Types:** FSLF focuses on three common attacks but may not handle advanced attacks (e.g., adaptive attacks) effectively.

### 6.2 Future Work

Future work will address these limitations and extend FSLF in the following directions:

**Lightweight Security Mechanisms:** Develop lightweight HE schemes and efficient attack-aware training methods to reduce computational overhead.

**Adaptive Threshold Tuning:** Propose adaptive methods to adjust  $P_{th}$  and  $\tau$  based on real-time attack intensity and system state.

**Fully Distributed Security:** Extend FSLF to fully distributed architectures using peer-to-peer aggregation and distributed attack detection.

**Adaptive Attack Defense:** Develop reinforcement learning-based adaptive defense mechanisms to handle advanced adaptive attacks.

**Cross-Layer Security Integration:** Integrate FSLF with hardware-level security mechanisms to provide end-to-end security for DACs.

## 7. Conclusion

This paper proposes a Federated Secure Learning Framework (FSLF) for Distributed Autonomous Control Systems (DACs) to defend against malicious attacks while preserving data privacy. FSLF integrates three key components: control-oriented weighted trimmed mean aggregation for Byzantine resilience, attack-aware federated adversarial training for resistance against data poisoning and attack perturbations, and cryptographic communication validation for detecting communication tampering. Experimental results on three benchmark DAC tasks demonstrate that FSLF outperforms state-of-the-art baselines in attack detection rate, system stability rate, control performance, privacy preservation, and communication efficiency.

The proposed FSLF provides a promising solution for enhancing the security of FL-enabled DACs, advancing their deployment in safety-critical applications. Future work will focus on reducing computational overhead, enabling adaptive threshold tuning, supporting fully distributed architectures, and defending against advanced adaptive attacks.



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