

# Privacy-Preserving Federated Meta-Learning for Neural Fields

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ICCV  
OCT 19-23, 2025  
A red hibiscus flower with a yellow center, positioned between the text 'ICCV' and 'HONOLULU HAWAII'.  
HONOLULU  
HAWAII

# Outline

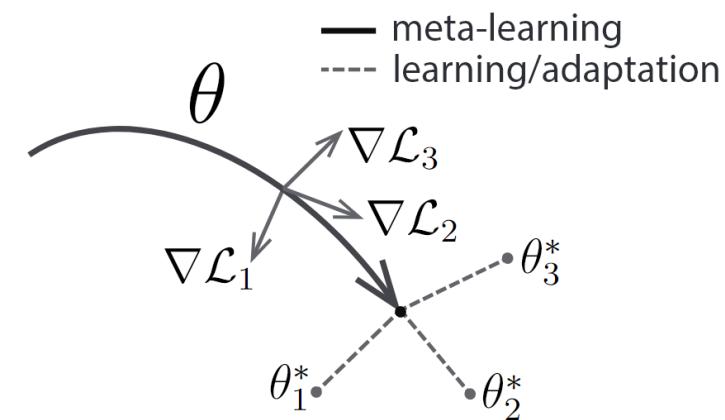
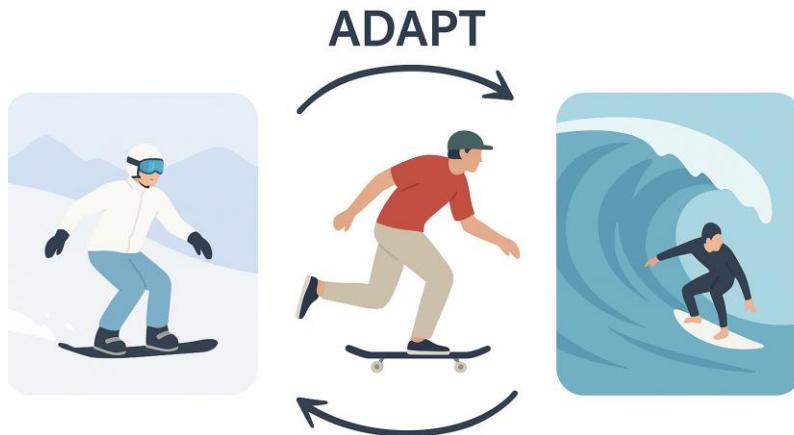
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- Background
  - Federated Learning (FL)
  - Meta-Learning
  - Neural Fields (NFs)
- Motivation
  - Scenario
  - Privacy Leakage in FML for NFs
- Approach (FedMeNF)
  - Privacy Metrics
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- Experiments
- Summary

# Background – Meta-Learning

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- Traditional machine learning approach
  - one separate model per task
- Meta-learning approach
  - learns learning strategy that generalizes across various tasks (**Learn to Learn**)
  - trains a meta-learner that can **adapt quickly to a new task**, even with only few data samples (**few-shot**)
- Example: quickly transfers know-how from **skateboarding** → **snowboarding or surfing**



# Background – Federated Learning (FL)

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- Privacy-Preserving Collaborative Learning
- Multiple devices or institutions **train together without ever sharing raw data**
- Each client trains locally, then **only model updates (parameters/gradients) are sent to a central server**
- Server **aggregates the updates into a global model** and broadcasts it back to clients for the next round

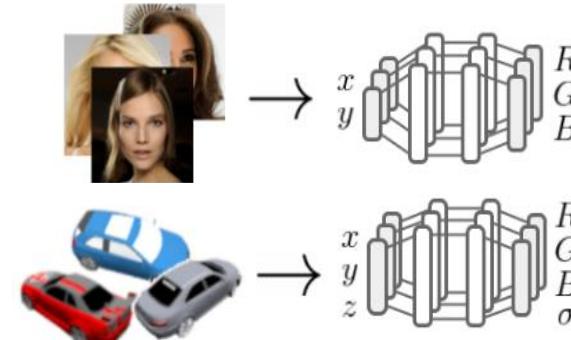


# Background – Neural Fields (NFs)

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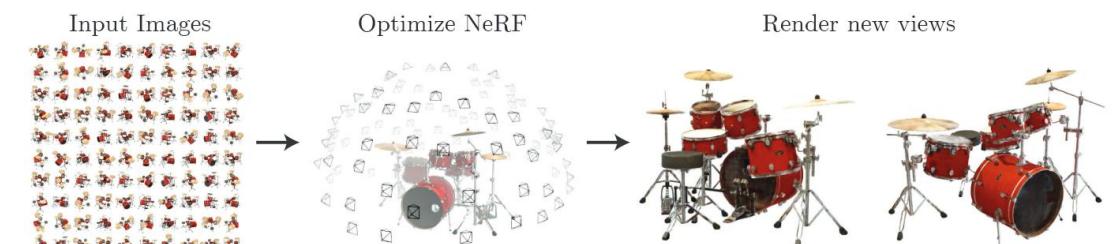
- **Coordinate-based Neural Fields**

- A deep neural network to approximate **continuous signals**
- represent continuous functions that **map spatial coordinates to signal values such as color or density**
- Delivers infinite resolution and **high memory-efficiency** compared with traditional pixel- or point-grid representations



- **NeRF (Neural Radiance Fields)**

- Learns a neural field from multiple 2D images of a 3D object or scene
- We can render new views of the same object/scene from arbitrary camera poses



E. Dupont, H. Kim, S. Eslami, D. Rezende, and D. Rosenbaum, “From data to functa: Your data point is a function and you can treat it like one,” arXiv:2201.12204, 2022.

B. Mildenhall, P. P. Srinivasan, M. Tancik, J. T. Barron, R. Ramamoorthi, and R. Ng, “Nerf: Representing scenes as neural radiance fields for view synthesis,” Communications of the ACM, 2021.

# Motivation – Scenario (*Local* method)

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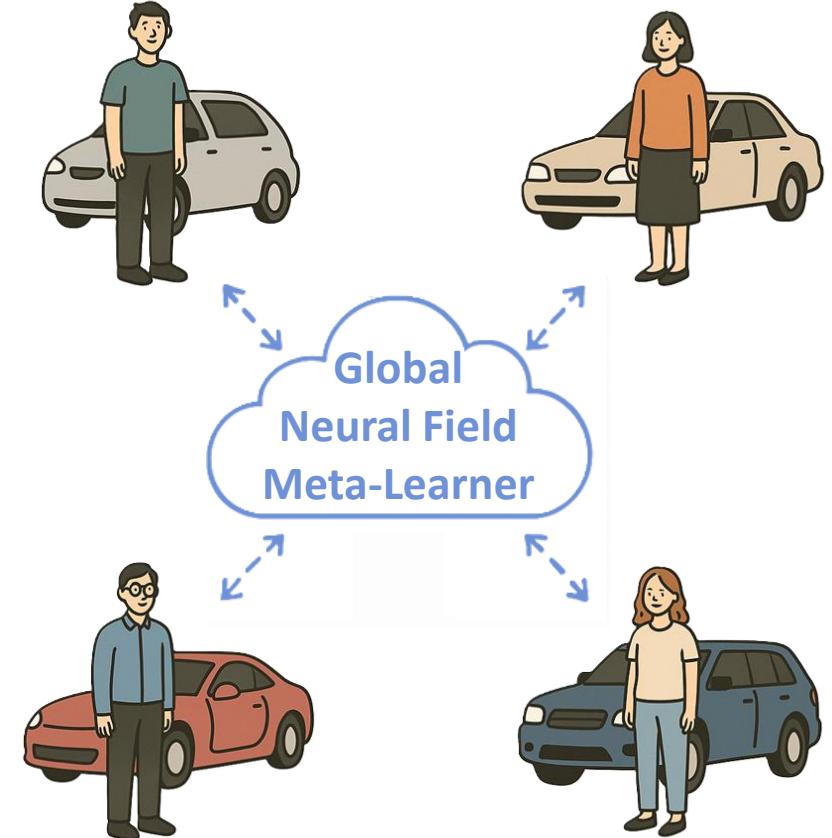


We want to train a **Neural Field Meta-Learner**  
which achieves **Fast Optimization** and **Robust Reconstruction Performance**,  
even **with Few-Shot**

# Motivation – Scenario (FML)

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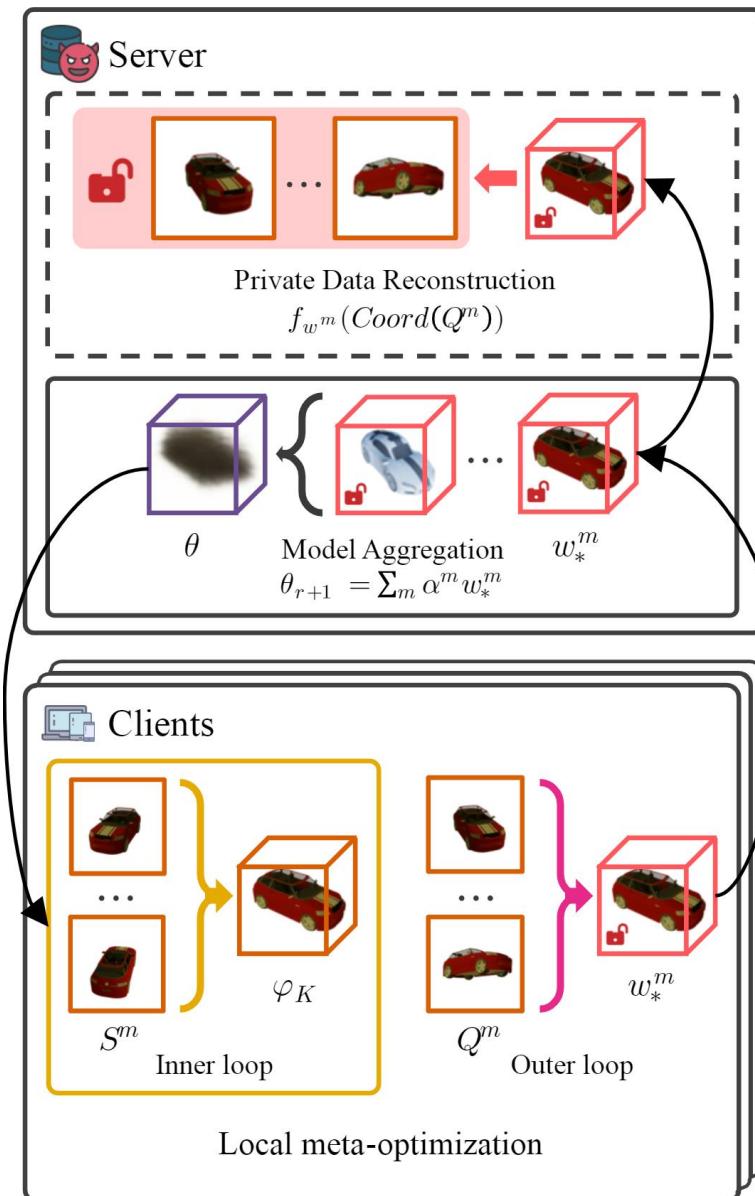
- Meta-learning requires various task data
- However, each client only has data from one car
- $\Rightarrow$  *Federated Meta-Learning (FML)*
  - Multiple clients collaborate
  - Train a global meta-learner
  - Without sharing raw data



# Motivation – Privacy Leakage in FML for NFs

## Causes

1. Each client only has a single task
  - e.g., car, face, body, ...
  - the **meta-learner functions as a neural field**  
(meta-optimization == 2<sup>nd</sup>-order optimization)
2. Neural fields inherently encapsulate the data
  - **shared meta-learner can be exploited to infer data**,  
which violate the client's privacy



# Motivation

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*We propose  
a novel **Federated Meta-Learning** approach  
for **Neural Fields**  
that **prevents privacy leakage**,  
called **FedMeNF***

Method	Local	Federated Meta-Learning	Ours
Fast optimization	✗	✓	✓
Few-shot adaptation	✗	✓	✓
Privacy preservation	✓	✗	✓

# Approach – Privacy Metric

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- We need a quantitative metric for “How well did the server reconstruct the client’s private data?”
- **Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio ( $PSNR$ )**
  - standard image quality metric in reconstruction & novel view synthesis
  - higher  $PSNR$   $\Rightarrow$  reconstructed image is closer to ground truth
- $PSNR_p$ 
  - Ground-truth (GT): client’s private image
  - Generated image: server-side reconstruction via shared meta-learner
  - higher  $PSNR_p$   $\Rightarrow$  server-reconstructed image is closer to client’s private image

# Approach – Privacy Metric

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- $PSNR_p = 10 \log_{10} \frac{R}{L(w, Q^m)}$ 
  - $L(w, Q^m)$ : MSE loss of the meta-learner on the client's local data
  - **smaller  $L(w, Q^m)$   $\Rightarrow$  larger  $PSNR_p$   $\Rightarrow$  stronger privacy leakage**
- $\Delta L_{i+1} = L(w_{i+1}, B_Q) - L(w_i, B_Q)$ 
  - change in MSE loss  $\Rightarrow$  change in  $PSNR_p$
- The first-order approximation of  $\Delta L_{i+1}$

$$\Delta L_{i+1} \approx -\lambda_o \cdot \left( \nabla_{w_i} L(w_i, B_Q) \right)^2 = -\lambda_o \cdot (g_K)^2 \leq 0$$

- Always  $\leq 0 \Rightarrow$  MSE loss  $\downarrow \Rightarrow PSNR_p \uparrow$  each outer step

# Approach – Privacy-Preserving Loss Function

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- $\Delta L_{i+1} \approx -\lambda_o \cdot (\nabla_{w_i} L(w_i, B_Q))^2 = -\lambda_o \cdot (g_K)^2 \leq 0$
- We define a privacy-preserving loss function that constrains the magnitude of  $g_K$

$$L_{pp}(w_i, \varphi_K, B_Q) = L(\varphi_K, B_Q) - \gamma \cdot L(w_i, B_Q)$$

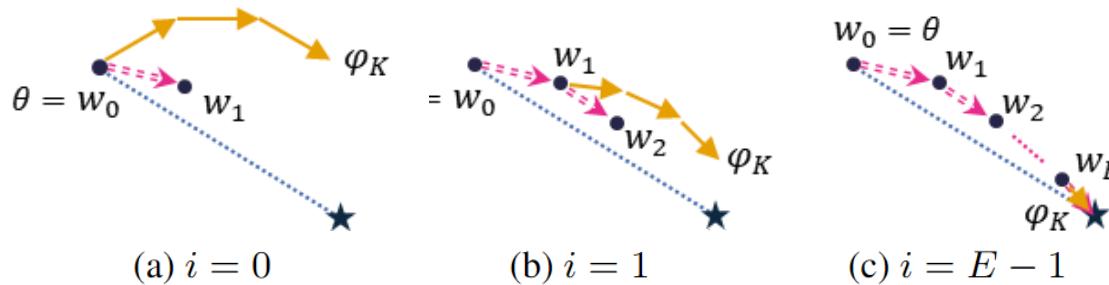
- $\gamma$  is a regularization coefficient that determines the portion of  $g_K$
- The first-order approximation of  $\Delta L_{i+1}$  with  $L_{pp}$

$$\Delta L_{i+1} \approx -\lambda_o (1 - \gamma) (g_K)^2 \leq 0$$

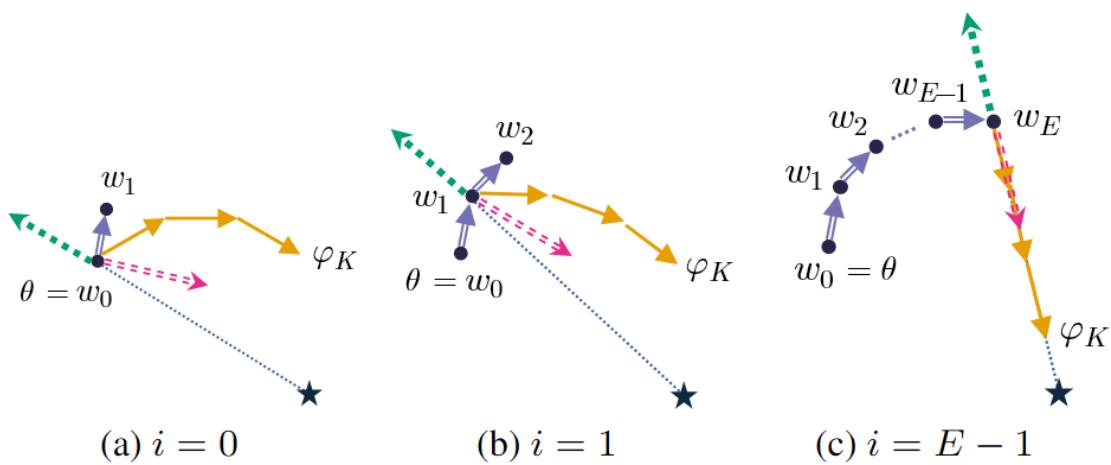
- Setting  $\gamma$  closer to 1  $\Rightarrow \Delta L_{i+1}$  closer to 0  $\Rightarrow$  **keep the rise in  $PSNR_p$**

# Approach – Privacy-Preserving Loss Function

- Existing Meta-optimization: memorizes the training data



- Privacy-Preserving Meta-optimization: avoids memorizing the data & learns only the learning procedure



- local meta-learner
- ★ optimal neural field
- $E$ : # of outer loop steps
- $i$ : outer loop step
- $\Rightarrow \nabla_{w_i} L(\varphi_K, B_Q)$
- $\dots \Rightarrow -\gamma \nabla_{w_i} L(w_i, B_Q)$
- $\rightarrow \nabla_{\varphi_k} L(\varphi_k, B_k)$
- $\Rightarrow \nabla_{w_i} L_{pp}(w_i, \varphi_K, B_Q)$

# Experiments - Settings

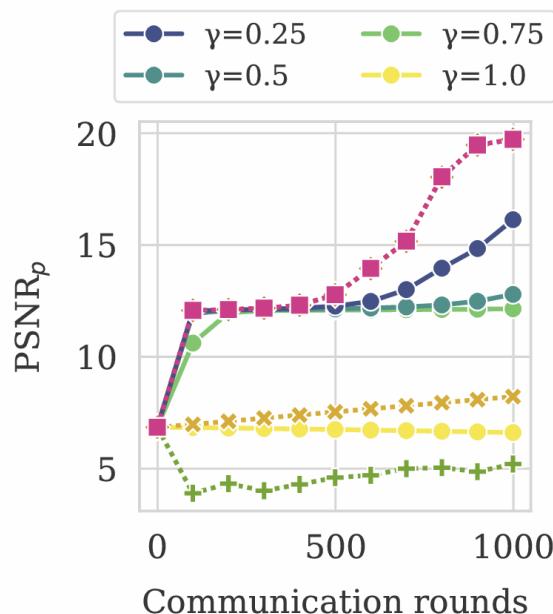
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- Baselines
  - Federated Meta-Learning = Federated Learning + Meta-Learning
    - Federated Learning: FedAvg, FedProx, Scaffold, FedNova, FedExP, and FedACG
    - Meta-Learning: MAML, FOMAML, Reptile, and meta-NSGD
- Datasets

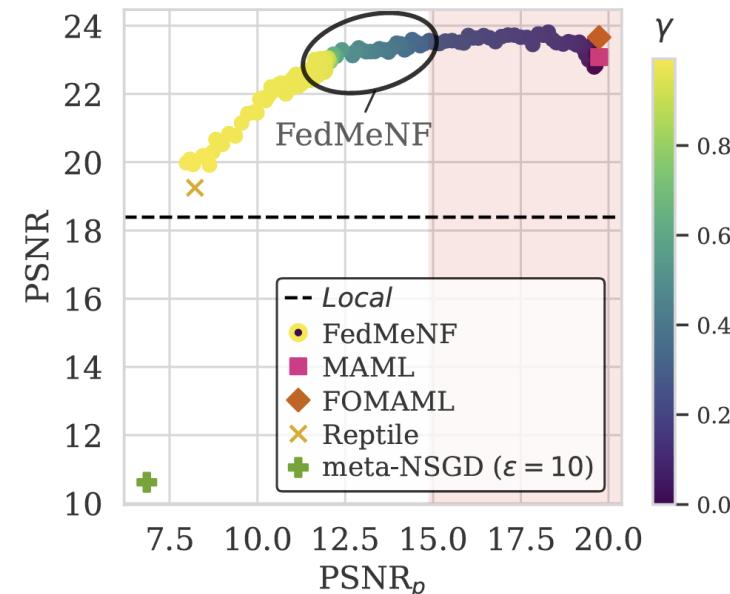
Modality	Dataset	Scenario
3D (NeRF)	ShapeNet	3D Car
	FaceScape	3D Face
Image	PetFace	Cat image
Video	GoldDB	Golf-swing video

# Experiments – Privacy-Performance Trade-off

- Our FedMeNF establishes an efficient frontier that balances privacy protection and reconstruction performance



(a) PSNR<sub>p</sub> / Rounds



(b) PSNR / PSNR<sub>p</sub>

# Experiments – Privacy-Performance Trade-off

- [Left] Reconstruction results of the **client's private image on the server**: (b) using MAML and (c) using FedMeNF
- [Right] Reconstruction results of a **new private image on the client**: (e) using MAML and (f) using FedMeNF



(a) GT ( $\text{PSNR}_p$ )



(b) MAML (17.33)



(c) FedMeNF (**5.84**)



(d) GT ( $\text{PSNR}$ )



(e) MAML (**35.74**)



(f) FedMeNF (35.16)

- [Upper] Reconstruction results of the **client's private video on the server**: (a) using MAML and (b) using FedMeNF
- [Lower] Reconstruction results of a **new private video on the client**: (c) using MAML and (d) using FedMeNF



(a) MAML ( $\text{PSNR}_p = 23.43$ )



(b) FedMeNF ( $\text{PSNR}_p = \underline{\underline{8.38}}$ )



(c) MAML ( $\text{PSNR} = \underline{\underline{29.65}}$ )

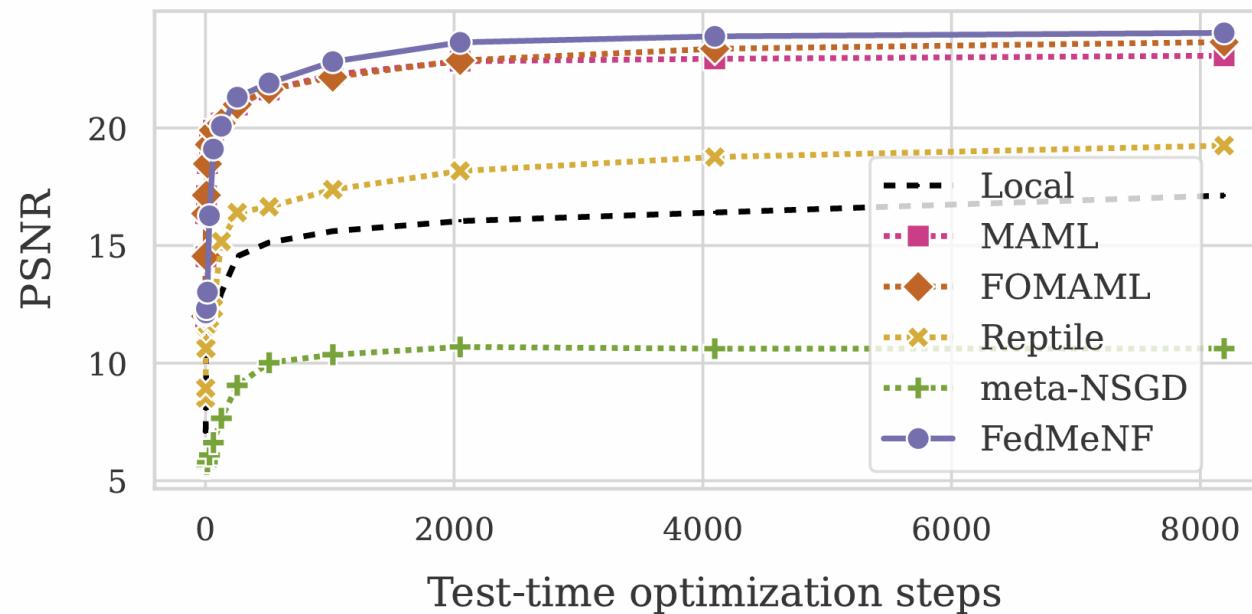


(d) FedMeNF ( $\text{PSNR} = 29.15$ )

# Experiments – Test-Time Optimization

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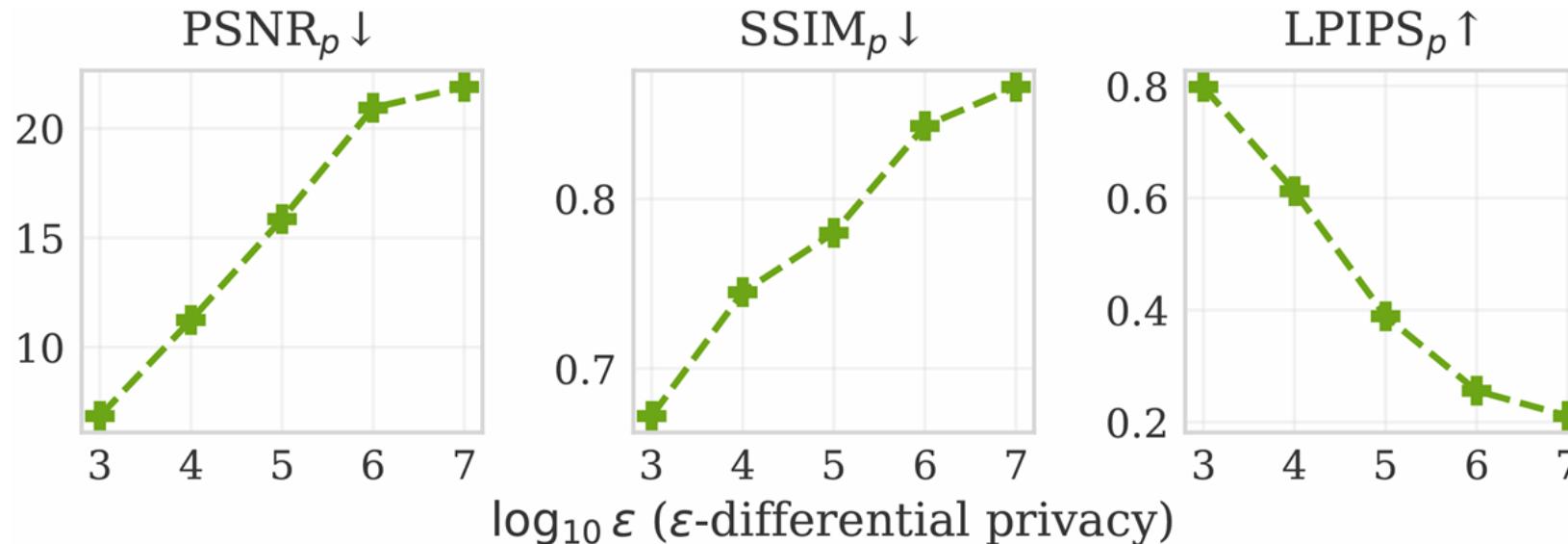
- Competitive optimization speed and reconstruction quality



# Experiments – Correlation between $\epsilon$ and Privacy Metrics

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- We examine the correlation between the privacy metrics and  $\epsilon$  of the differential privacy framework using meta-NSGD.
- The privacy metrics degrade as  $\epsilon$  increases, supporting their generalizability as a measure of privacy leakage.



# Experiments – Qualitative Results

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- Competitive optimization speed and reconstruction quality



(a) GT (PSNR)



(b) Local (14.97)



(c) MAML (21.22)



(d) FOMAML (21.44)



(e) Reptile (17.57)



(f) FedMeNF (**21.92**)



(a) GT (PSNR)



(b) Local (32.69)



(c) MAML (33.17)



(d) FOMAML (33.26)



(e) Reptile (32.72)



(f) FedMeNF (**33.54**)

# Summary

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- The **first study** to address **federated learning for neural fields on private data**
- We **theoretically and empirically show how privacy leakage occurs** during the federated meta-learning for neural fields
- We propose FedMeNF that **preserves the privacy of local data with minimal impact on optimization speed and reconstruction quality**
- **Comprehensive experiments** on FedMeNF across various data modalities, private data sizes, and levels of data diversity, **outperforming baseline methods**