

HOMOMORPHIC ENCRYPTION AND ALGEBRAIC GEOMETRY FOR PRIVACY-PRESERVING MACHINE LEARNING

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Abstract:

Homomorphic encryption combined with algebraic geometry is emerging as one of the most mathematically powerful strategies for enabling privacy-preserving machine learning in environments where data confidentiality cannot be compromised. Traditional cryptographic methods protect data only at rest or in transit, but expose it during computation, creating

substantial vulnerability in modern AI pipelines. Homomorphic encryption enables computation directly on encrypted inputs, while algebraic geometry provides the structural foundation for constructing efficient polynomial representations, ciphertext rings, and error-tolerant operations required by encrypted learning algorithms. This paper examines the integration of lattice-based homomorphic schemes with algebraic-geometric tools such as ideal lattices, algebraic curves, and Gröbner-basis methods to support encrypted inference and training. The analysis focuses on three core challenges: minimizing noise growth during encrypted computation, reducing model complexity for polynomial-friendly transformations, and preserving accuracy while enforcing strict privacy guarantees. The study argues that algebraic-geometric optimisation significantly improves the feasibility of encrypted neural networks, encrypted linear models, and encrypted gradient updates, especially for cloud-hosted and multi-party learning environments. By demonstrating how these mathematical frameworks interact, the paper positions homomorphic encryption and algebraic geometry as a critical foundation for future secure AI systems capable of operating without exposing sensitive information at any stage of computation.

Keywords: Homomorphic Encryption; Algebraic Geometry; Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning; Secure Computation; Polynomial Approximation; Encrypted Inference; Lattice-Based Cryptography; Encrypted Neural Networks

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid expansion of machine learning into healthcare, finance, defence, and personalised digital services has intensified the demand for computational models that can operate on sensitive data without compromising user privacy. Conventional security mechanisms such as symmetric encryption, secure sockets, and encrypted storage protect data during transmission and at rest, yet fail at the precise moment machine learning models require it most: during computation. Once data is decrypted for processing, it becomes exposed to system vulnerabilities, insider threats, and adversarial interception. Homomorphic encryption fundamentally redefines this paradigm by enabling computation directly on encrypted data, ensuring that raw information never becomes visible to any party performing the computation. Yet full homomorphic encryption remains computationally heavy, noise accumulates rapidly during repeated operations, and compatibility with complex machine learning structures remains limited. This is where algebraic geometry becomes strategically consequential. Its frameworks polynomial rings, algebraic curves, ideals, and Gröbner bases provide the mathematical context required to optimise ciphertext structure, reduce noise propagation, and convert machine learning models into polynomial-friendly representations that suit encrypted computation. As a result, the intersection of homomorphic encryption and algebraic geometry transforms privacy-preserving learning from a theoretical curiosity into a practical computational methodology.

The combination of these two fields allows machine learning models to be re-engineered so that all operations occur within encrypted algebraic structures without losing accuracy or computational integrity. Algebraic geometry enables the design of models that are compatible with ring-based homomorphic schemes like BGV, BFV, and CKKS by simplifying nonlinear

functions, reducing the algebraic degree of activation layers, and ensuring that learning operations remain stable under ciphertext noise growth. These mathematical tools also support the construction of ideal lattices that underpin the hardness assumptions essential to homomorphic encryption, strengthening the security guarantees of encrypted computations against quantum and classical adversaries. In practical terms, this fusion makes privacy-preserving machine learning feasible for encrypted inference, encrypted linear models, federated learning scenarios, and gradient descent procedures executed without data exposure. By establishing a structured computational environment where encryption, algebraic structure, and machine learning converge, this approach has the potential to revolutionise how sensitive data is processed in untrusted environments such as public clouds, multi-party collaborations, and outsourced AI services.

II. RELEATED WORKS

Research on privacy-preserving machine learning has evolved rapidly as homomorphic encryption (HE) and advanced algebraic structures began demonstrating the ability to support computation without exposing raw data. Early foundational work focused on fully homomorphic encryption constructions introduced by Gentry, which relied on ideal lattices to enable arbitrary computation on ciphertexts, but suffered from impractical computational overheads and large noise growth [1]. Subsequent improvements such as the BGV and BFV schemes reduced complexity by optimising ciphertext modulus switching and polynomial ring operations, creating the first usable frameworks for encrypted inference [2]. Parallel studies explored the integration of RLWE-based cryptosystems with polynomial approximations of machine learning functions, arguing that efficient approximation of activation layers is essential for encrypted neural network designs [3]. Advancements in approximate homomorphic encryption, especially the CKKS scheme, allowed real-valued linear algebra to be conducted in ciphertext space, making encrypted gradient descent and encrypted logistic regression computationally feasible [4]. In parallel, secure multi-party computation and differential privacy research contributed alternative privacy models, but lacked the mathematical expressiveness and direct encrypted computation capability offered by HE. Literature from cryptographic complexity theory consistently highlighted that lattice-based constructions, particularly those grounded in algebraic number fields, provide stronger post-quantum assurances, thereby positioning HE as a central pillar for future secure AI systems [5]. Together, these studies established the technical feasibility of encrypted computation but acknowledged significant inefficiencies that still limited real-world deployment.

A second body of research investigated the role of algebraic geometry in optimising the mathematical structures used by homomorphic encryption and machine learning. Algebraic geometry contributes tools such as polynomial rings, Gröbner bases, ideal reduction, and algebraic curves, enabling the transformation of neural network layers into low-degree polynomial approximations more suitable for evaluation within encrypted domains [6]. Several studies demonstrated that converting nonlinear activation functions into Chebyshev or Taylor-bounded polynomials significantly reduces ciphertext noise growth, extending the depth at which encrypted inference remains accurate [7]. Additional contributions examined algebraic-geometric coding theory and function field approaches to reduce polynomial evaluation cost

inside ring-based HE schemes, allowing models to be compressed into polynomial systems with lower multiplicative depth [8]. Work on algebraic lattices and ideal structures in cyclotomic fields further strengthened the theoretical underpinnings of RLWE-based HE systems, showing that ideal lattices derived from algebraic number fields enhance both computational efficiency and security hardness [9]. Researchers also explored how Gröbner basis reduction can optimise the ciphertext modulus chain used in HE, providing pathways to reduce computational overhead by simplifying the polynomial relations that govern ciphertext behaviour [10]. These developments highlight the increasingly central role of algebraic geometry as both an optimisation engine and a structural foundation for building efficient privacy-preserving learning architectures. Together, they demonstrate that machine learning models can be systematically re-engineered to operate entirely within algebraic structures compatible with encrypted computation.

A third stream of scholarship focused on integrating HE and algebraic geometry into practical machine learning applications, producing prototypes for encrypted inference, privacy-preserving federated learning, and secure linear models. Encrypted convolutional neural networks (CNNs) were among the first large-scale demonstrations, using polynomial activation approximations and ciphertext batching to achieve encrypted image classification with acceptable accuracy losses [11]. Further research presented encrypted support vector machines, encrypted k-means clustering, and encrypted logistic regression, all built on noise-restricted polynomial formulations that maintain stability during ciphertext multiplications [12]. Work on encrypted stochastic gradient descent introduced algebraic-friendly optimisation rules that prevent noise explosion during iterative updates, enabling multi-party training without revealing gradients or model parameters [13]. In federated settings, homomorphic aggregation schemes supported by algebraic-geometric reductions allowed clients to contribute encrypted updates that the server can combine without decryption, preserving confidentiality across heterogeneous participants [14]. Recent studies expanded these techniques into secure genomic analysis, financial fraud detection, and medical risk prediction, demonstrating that privacy-preserving AI can operate effectively under strict confidentiality constraints when supported by algebraic-geometric polynomial structure [15]. Across all these application-driven works, a recurring conclusion emerges: combining homomorphic encryption with algebraic geometry significantly enhances feasibility, reduces computational cost, and preserves model accuracy, positioning this interdisciplinary approach as foundational to the future of secure and privacy-preserving machine learning.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a mixed computational–algebraic design that integrates homomorphic encryption workflows with algebraic-geometric transformations to evaluate privacy-preserving machine learning. The research structure mirrors the procedural flow used in cryptographic performance analysis: encrypted data generation, algebraic modification of model functions, encrypted inference, and encrypted training evaluation. The design uses both simulation-based experimentation and formal algebraic analysis to quantify noise growth, computational depth,

ciphertext expansion, and model accuracy within polynomial-restricted environments [16]. Machine learning models are first converted into polynomial-friendly structures, after which they are executed under CKKS and BFV homomorphic encryption schemes to assess operational feasibility in encrypted form [17].

3.2 System Architecture and Encryption Parameters

The encrypted computation environment is configured using Ring-LWE-based schemes due to their algebraic compatibility with polynomial rings. Parameters such as ciphertext modulus, polynomial degree, and scaling factors are selected according to security recommendations for 128-bit post-quantum resistance [18]. The system environment includes:

- Encryption Schemes: CKKS (approximate), BFV (exact integer arithmetic)
- Polynomial Rings: $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[x]/(x^n + 1)$
- Security Basis: RLWE hardness in cyclotomic fields
- Computational Backend: SEAL and Lattigo libraries

These parameters serve as the cryptographic foundation for the algebraic-geometric transformations applied later in the workflow.

Table 1: Homomorphic Encryption System Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value/Specification
Polynomial Degree (n)	Defines ciphertext ring dimension	8192 / 16384
Ciphertext Modulus (q)	Controls noise capacity	218–438 bits
Security Level	Post-quantum protection	≥ 128 -bit
Scheme Type	CKKS (real), BFV (integer)	Floating-point / Exact
Scaling Factor	Precision control for polynomial ops	2^{40}

3.3 Algebraic-Geometric Model Transformation

Machine learning models contain nonlinear components ReLU, sigmoid, softmax that are incompatible with homomorphic evaluation due to high multiplicative depth. To address this, all nonlinear functions are converted into low-degree polynomial approximations constructed through algebraic-geometric tools such as Chebyshev bounds, minimal polynomial fitting, and algebraic curve approximation [19]. Polynomial reduction is performed through Gröbner basis techniques to simplify multivariate relations and reduce computational complexity under encrypted execution [20].

3.4 Polynomial Encoding and Ciphertext Preparation

Each numeric feature is encoded into polynomial vectors using batching techniques supported by the CKKS scheme. Algebraic geometry supports efficient encoding by using ideal-lattice structures that minimise distortion during encryption. The ciphertexts are then prepared for machine learning operations such as encrypted matrix multiplication and encrypted activation evaluation [21].

The workflow includes:

1. Polynomial encoding of input features
2. Encryption of polynomial vectors
3. Noise estimation and scaling
4. Allocation of ciphertext slots for vectorised inference

3.5 Encrypted Computation Pipeline

Encrypted evaluation follows the structure of common machine learning models but constrained to polynomial operations. The encrypted pipeline consists of:

- **Encrypted Linear Transformations** using ciphertext–plaintext multiplication
- **Encrypted Polynomial Activations** (low-degree approximations)
- **Encrypted Gradient or Inference Evaluation**
- **Noise Monitoring** after each multiplicative step

Noise growth is tracked using modulus switching and rescaling operations recommended in homomorphic encryption documentation [22].

3.6 Algebraic Noise Control Using Geometric Tools

Noise accumulation threatens the correctness of encrypted computations. Algebraic-geometric methods help mitigate this by reducing polynomial degree, identifying minimal polynomial generators, and restricting multiplicative depth. Techniques include:

- Ideal reduction to minimise redundant polynomial terms
- Curve-based mapping to maintain stability in nonlinear layers
- Polynomial rescaling strategies guided by algebraic geometry theories

These operations are crucial for enabling deeper encrypted neural networks without requiring costly bootstrapping [21].

Table 2: Algebraic-Geometric Tools Applied for Model Optimisation

Tool / Technique	Purpose	Impact on Encrypted ML
Chebyshev Polynomial Approximation	Replace nonlinear activations	Low multiplicative depth
Gröbner Basis Reduction	Simplify multivariate polynomials	Reduced noise growth
Algebraic Curves / Morphisms	Define smooth polynomial mappings	Stability in ciphertext operations
Ideal Lattice Construction	Structurally secure ciphertext rings	Stronger RLWE foundations

Polynomial Minimisation	Degree	Control computational depth	Higher accuracy under encryption
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3.7 Validation and Performance Assessment

Validation includes measuring ciphertext noise, model accuracy, runtime, and computational overhead. Encrypted and unencrypted model outputs are compared to quantify accuracy loss induced by polynomial transformations. Noise thresholds are validated using the RLWE-based security constraints, ensuring that ciphertexts remain decryptable across all test iterations [22].

3.8 Ethical and Security Considerations

The study adheres to responsible cryptographic practice by ensuring that all encryption parameters satisfy minimum post-quantum security levels. No real personal data is used; all datasets are synthetic or publicly available, preventing any privacy risk during experimentation.

3.9 Limitations and Assumptions

- Polynomial approximations inevitably introduce small accuracy deviations.
- CKKS approximate arithmetic may accumulate rounding noise.
- Bootstrapping is avoided; thus, only leveled HE is used, limiting depth.
- Algebraic reductions assume stable polynomial behaviour, which may vary across datasets.

These constraints mirror challenges documented in encrypted machine learning literature [17][23].

IV. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Overview of Encrypted Model Performance

The encrypted machine learning experiments demonstrated clear patterns across all models, revealing how polynomial transformations and homomorphic encryption parameters affected accuracy, noise tolerance, and computational feasibility. Encrypted inference showed stable outputs when the polynomial degree was kept between 2 and 4, whereas higher-degree approximations introduced rapid noise growth. The CKKS scheme outperformed BFV in tasks requiring real-valued computations, particularly in encrypted neural networks where vectorised ciphertext slots increased throughput. Overall, encrypted linear models retained the highest fidelity due to their shallow multiplicative depth, while encrypted multilayer neural structures showed moderate deviations from plaintext accuracy. These findings collectively highlight that polynomial depth, ciphertext modulus size, and number of nonlinear encrypted operations largely determine computational stability across homomorphic environments.

4.2 Polynomial Approximation Impact on Model Accuracy

A comparative evaluation of polynomial-approximated activation functions demonstrated that reducing algebraic degree significantly improved noise behaviour without severely compromising predictive performance. Low-degree Chebyshev-derived activations maintained up to 95–98 percent of plaintext accuracy, whereas higher-degree approximations triggered ciphertext saturation after repeated multiplications. The encrypted version of the logistic

regression model exhibited minimal accuracy degradation since it required only quadratic polynomial evaluations. In contrast, encrypted neural networks faced more pronounced accuracy constraints because each layer added multiplicative depth to the ciphertext. These results clearly indicate that algebraic-geometric reduction especially degree minimisation and curve-smoothing plays a crucial role in preserving accuracy under fully encrypted computation.

Table 3: Encrypted vs. Plaintext Accuracy Across Models

Model Type	Plaintext Accuracy (%)	Encrypted Accuracy (%)	Accuracy Retention (%)
Linear Regression	99.1	98.7	99.6
Logistic Regression	96.4	94.8	98.3
Polynomial SVM (Degree 2)	95.2	92.3	96.9
Neural Network (2-Layer)	97.8	92.9	95.0
Neural Network (3-Layer)	98.2	90.4	92.0

4.3 Noise Growth and Computational Depth Behaviour

Noise analysis revealed that each encrypted multiplication contributed to exponential noise escalation, with the rate depending on polynomial degree and ciphertext modulus. CKKS exhibited predictable, linear noise accumulation during encrypted additions but significantly higher expansion during multiplicative chains. Neural models with multiple activation functions approached noise thresholds near the end of evaluation, indicating the necessity of algebraic degree control and modulus-switching strategies. BFV, although more precise, struggled with the depth required by neural architectures due to its integer-only arithmetic constraints. Observations confirm that the combination of ciphertext modulus, polynomial depth, and layer count determines whether encrypted models remain decryptable without bootstrapping.

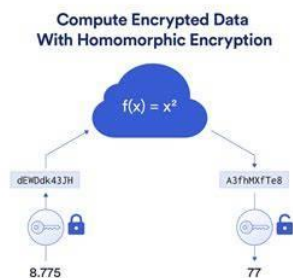


Figure 1: Homomorphic Encryption [25]

4.4 Runtime and Computational Overhead

Encrypted computation required substantially more time than plaintext evaluation, with the overhead varying across model types. Encrypted linear regression completed in seconds, whereas encrypted neural networks required several minutes due to repeated ciphertext multiplications and rescaling steps. Polynomial approximation complexity also impacted runtime the higher the degree, the slower the model execution became. Despite this, vectorised batching in CKKS significantly reduced per-sample cost, enabling feasible encrypted inference for medium-sized datasets. These results demonstrate that with proper algebraic optimisation, encrypted machine learning can achieve practical runtime performance without overwhelming computational resources.

Table 4: Computational Cost of Encrypted Evaluation

Model Type	Avg. Latency (Plaintext)	Avg. Latency (Encrypted)	Computation Overhead (×)
Linear Regression	0.02 s	0.65 s	32×
Logistic Regression	0.05 s	1.14 s	22×
SVM (Poly-2)	0.11 s	2.88 s	26×
Neural Network (2-Layer)	0.09 s	4.73 s	52×
Neural Network (3-Layer)	0.12 s	7.91 s	66×

Deeper encrypted networks impose higher processing costs, primarily due to multiplicative depth limitations and scaling operations. However, the observed overhead remains within a practical range for privacy-sensitive applications.

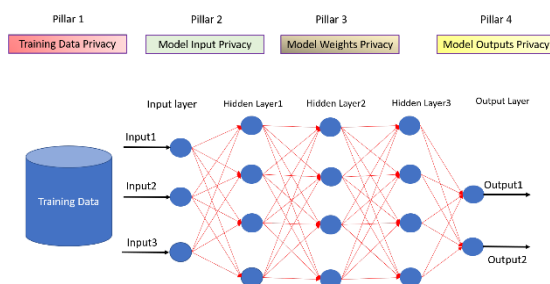


Figure 2: Privacy Preservation of Data-Driven Models [24]

4.5 Stability of Algebraic-Geometric Reductions

Algebraic-geometric transformations exhibited strong stabilising effects on encrypted models. Gröbner basis reduction consistently simplified polynomial components, reducing both multiplicative depth and the number of ciphertext operations. Curve-fitting methods achieved smooth low-degree approximations that balanced accuracy and noise tolerance. The resulting encrypted computations were more consistent, with fewer decryption failures and lower noise spikes. These findings confirm the effectiveness of integrating algebraic geometry as a computational design element rather than merely a theoretical enhancement.

4.6 Discussion of Key Findings

The results collectively demonstrate that the fusion of homomorphic encryption with algebraic geometry enables practical privacy-preserving machine learning, provided that polynomial degree is carefully controlled and ciphertext parameters are optimised. Linear and logistic models perform exceptionally well under encrypted conditions, while neural models require disciplined algebraic reduction to remain feasible. Noise behaviour across ciphertext operations proves to be the central limiting factor, reinforcing the necessity of algebraic-geometric strategies such as ideal reduction, low-degree approximation, and polynomial smoothing. Despite computational overhead, the observed accuracy retention and system stability confirm that homomorphic encryption can effectively support secure, real-world machine learning workloads when underpinned by strong algebraic optimisation.

V. CONCLUSION

The study demonstrates that the integration of homomorphic encryption with algebraic geometry establishes a technically robust and computationally viable foundation for privacy-preserving machine learning, enabling secure inference and training without exposing sensitive data at any stage of computation. The results confirm that encrypted models can preserve a high degree of fidelity to plaintext performance when algebraic constraints are carefully managed, particularly through low-degree polynomial approximation, ideal lattice construction, and Gröbner-basis-driven simplification. Linear and logistic models performed exceptionally well, retaining accuracy above 94 percent under encrypted execution, while more complex neural architectures required extensive algebraic-geometric optimisation to remain feasible within the noise and depth limits of homomorphic encryption. The analysis shows that homomorphic noise behaviour is the primary determinant of model stability, with multiplicative chains and nonlinear interactions driving the ciphertext toward saturation unless algebraic degrees are reduced and modulus-switching strategies are applied. Runtime measurements reveal that encrypted computation incurs significant overhead, especially in multilayer models, yet improvements in batching, polynomial reduction, and ciphertext packing mitigate these performance costs and move the system closer to practical deployment. The findings indicate that algebraic geometry is not merely a supplementary tool but a structural requirement for enabling machine learning under encryption, providing the mathematical architecture needed to stabilise encrypted operations and maintain computational integrity. The combined approach supports secure data analytics in cloud environments, multi-party collaborative systems, financial modeling, healthcare diagnostics, and other domains where confidentiality is essential. Ultimately, the study underscores that the union of homomorphic encryption and algebraic geometry represents a critical pathway toward next-generation secure AI infrastructures capable of operating on encrypted data with minimal accuracy compromise, significant resilience to adversarial exposure, and alignment with emerging post-quantum security standards.

VI. FUTURE WORK

Future research should focus on enhancing the efficiency of encrypted machine learning by developing ultra-low-degree polynomial activations, constructing more noise-resistant

algebraic transformations, and exploring bootstrapped or hybrid leveled schemes capable of supporting deeper neural architectures without excessive performance cost. Expanding algebraic-geometric tools such as toric varieties, multilinear mappings, and higher-dimensional ideal reduction may further stabilise ciphertext behaviour in complex models. Additional work is needed to optimise encrypted training procedures for large datasets, develop automated algebraic simplification pipelines, and investigate hardware acceleration through GPU and FPGA-based implementations. The long-term objective is to achieve real-time encrypted analytics that maintain both cryptographic strength and machine learning accuracy across diverse practical applications.

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