



PhD journey and life after PhD



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Where I am from

99 million inhabitants

>80 ethnic groups
and languages

Calendar and
alphabets

Birthplace of coffee

Ethiopia (ኢትዮጵያ)

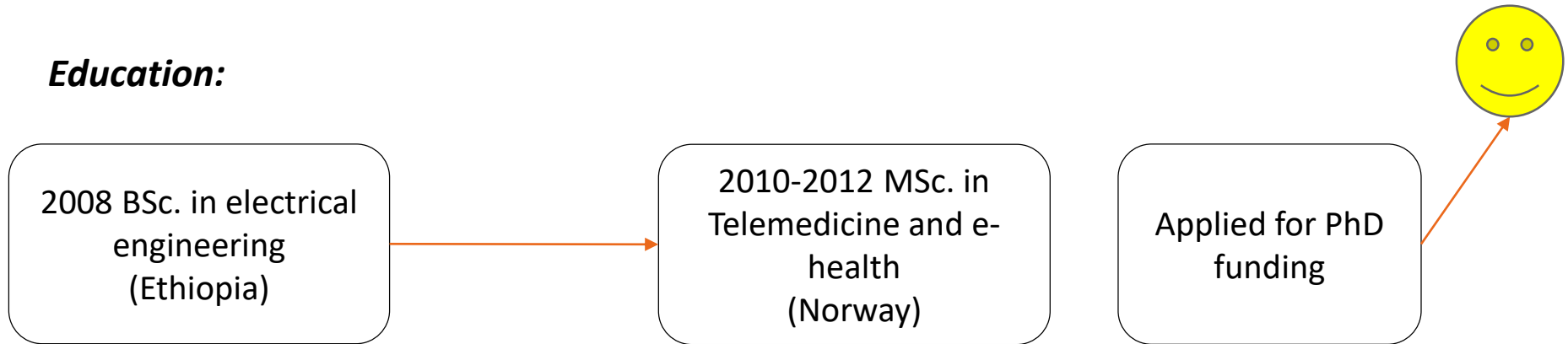


<https://usembassyaddis.wordpress.com/2015/07/30/president-obamas-historic-visit-to-ethiopia/coffee-ceremony-2/>



Life before PhD

Education:

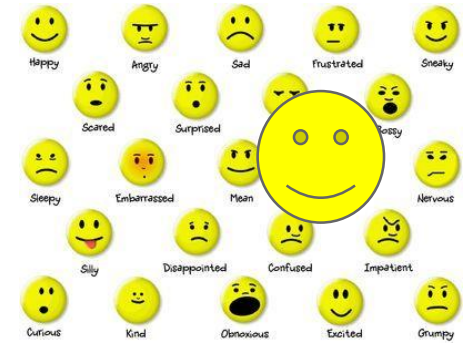


Work experience:





PhD timeline



PhD Started

Fund ended

Thesis
submitted

Evaluation
result

The big day!

January 2013

January 2016

October 2016

December 2016

January 2017



07.06.17

My PhD journey and life after PhD



PhD: Background

Health data collected
by data custodians

EHR data

Laboratory
data

Insurance
claims

Registry data

Big health
data

Patient-generated
health data (PGHD)

Sensors

Mobile apps

Questionnaire

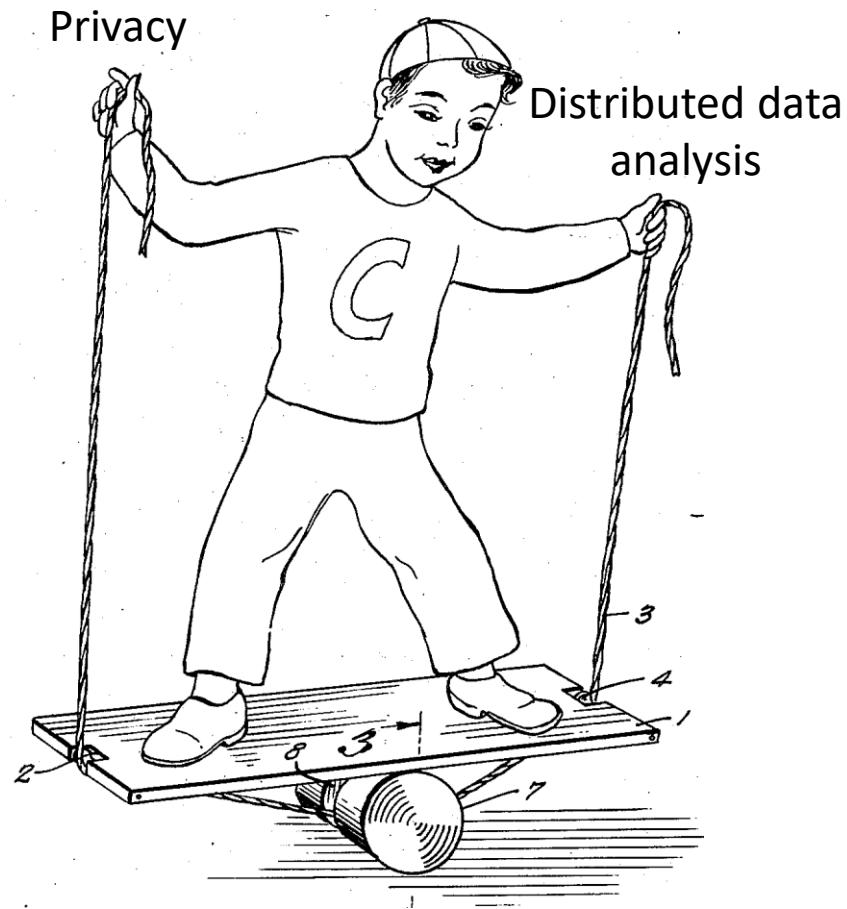


PhD: Background

- Huge potential to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of care of our healthcare system
- Distributed data analysis, e.g.,
 - ✓ Clinical research
 - ✓ Public health applications
- Privacy concerns
 - ✓ Patients
 - ✓ Clinicians
 - ✓ Health institutions

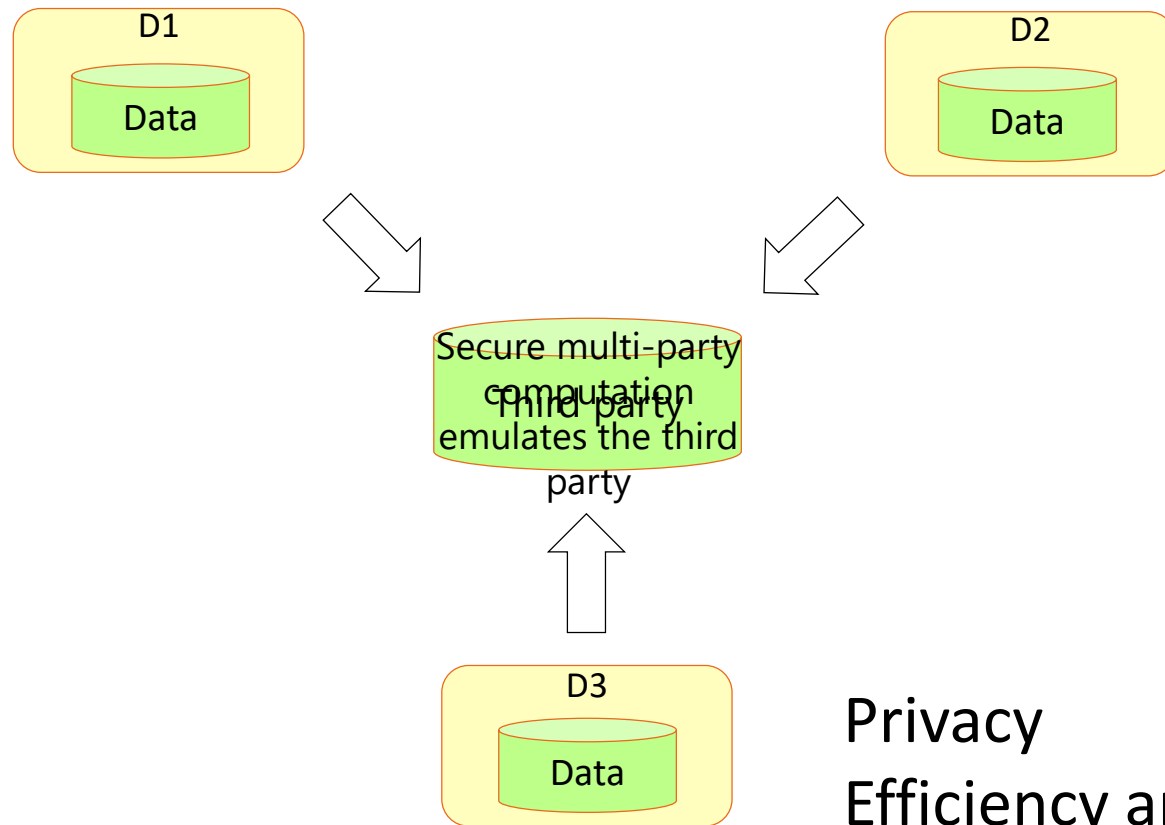


PhD: Objective





Secure multi-party computation (SMC)





Publications

- Journal papers:
 - ✓ 1 published
 - ✓ 1 under second review
 - ✓ 1 under review
- Conference papers:
 - ✓ 4 published



Trial lecture

- Title: Security and privacy of Bitcoin
- Interests to use blockchain (distributed ledger technology) outside cryptocurrency



Recipe for PhD?

GET(PhD recipe)



404 ERROR
Recipe not available



Would you like the
lessons learned by
others?

“The more difficult it is to
reach your destination,
the more you’ll
remember the journey.”

~ Susan Gale.



Lessons learned: Planning

- PhD is managing a project for years
- Always plan and set deadlines
- Let the supervisors know your plan and maintain regular meetings with them
 - ✓ It helps to avoid procrastination and meet deadlines
- The success of your plan depends on several factors
- Take corrective actions to unmet deadlines



Lessons learned: Time

- Aim to complete within the PhD funding period
- Did not complete within my three years funding
- Additional 10 months



Lessons learned: Writing

- Writing requires training, invest in it
- Start writing your thesis on the first day
- Write all your thoughts, can easily be forgotten
- Keep references to publications that might be relevant in the future



Lessons learned: Publication

- An article is never enough, until you send it for a review
- Choose the appropriate publication channel
- The review process takes time



Lessons learned: Publication

- Do not take a reviewer's comments personal
 - ✓ Try to learn from it
 - ✓ Even when a reviewer misunderstood your paper, you learn how the paper can be understood
- Understand the peer-review process (take a course, become a peer-reviewer, join student editorial board)
- Who should be co-author?



Lessons learned: Networking

- You may not find all the required expertise in your group
- Brings the missing expertise into your project
- Creates a chance for co-authorship and more
- Go to conferences and workshops
- Join international working groups

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.”
~?.



Lessons learned: Learn, learn, and learn

- Important to stay focused in your research
- Learn as much as you can



Life after PhD

- We got 12 million from Research council
- 2 years postdoc position
- Norwegian center for e-Health research (Tromsø)



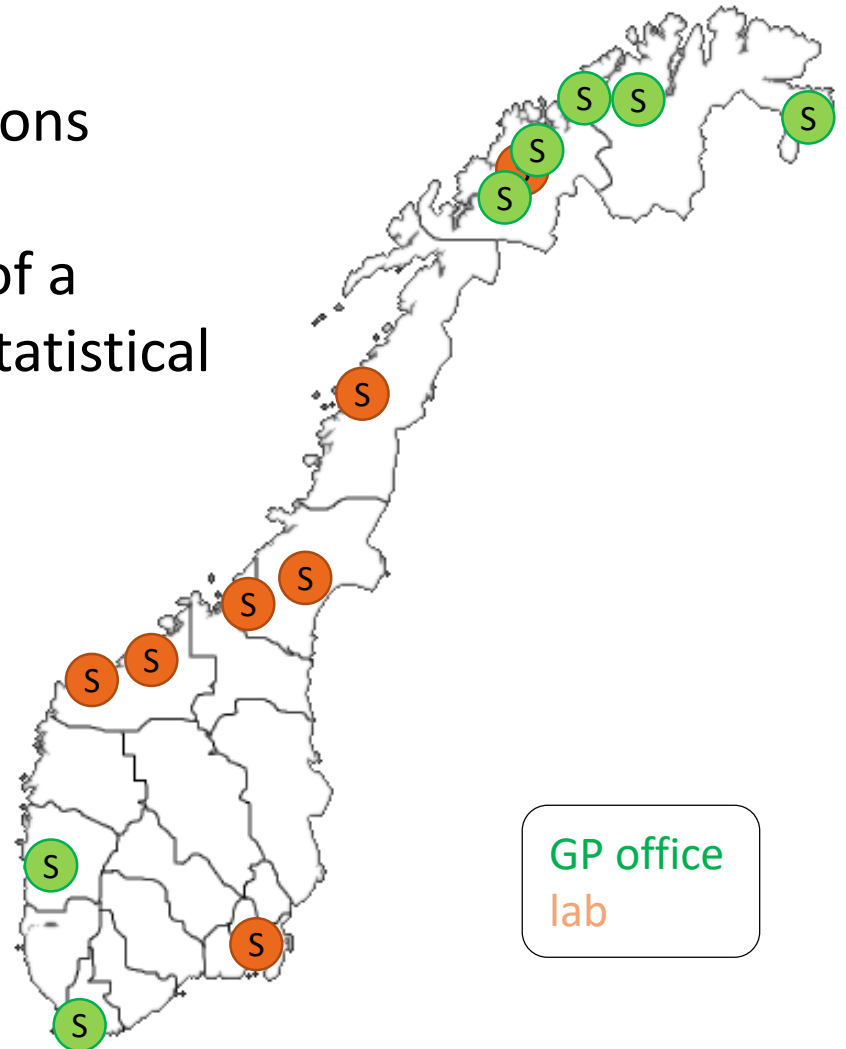
Life after PhD

- Further research on the same topic
- Moving our methods into practical use
- Involved in the software developments



Life after PhD

- Collaborate with health institutions
- Deployed distributed system
- Plan to deploy the first release of a privacy-preserving distributed statistical computation method



GP office
lab



Life after PhD

- Participate in more projects
- Less stressful, although the workload is similar
- Became more independent
- More time for personal life



Thank you for Listening!

