Supplementary Material: Asynchronous Stochastic Gradient Descent with Delay Compensation

A. Theorem 3.1 and Its Proof

Theorem 3.1:

Assume the loss function is L_1 -Lipschitz. If $\lambda \in [0,1]$ make the following inequality holds,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{1}{\sigma_k^3(x, \mathbf{w}_t)} \ge 2 \left[C_{ij} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{1}{\sigma_k(x, \mathbf{w}_t)} \right)^2 + C'_{ij} L_1^2 |\epsilon_t| \right], \tag{1}$$

where $C_{ij} = \frac{1}{1+\lambda} (\frac{u_i u_j \beta}{l_i l_j \sqrt{\alpha}})^2$, $C_{ij}' = \frac{1}{(1+\lambda)\alpha(l_i l_j)^2}$, and the model converges to the optimal model, then the MSE of $\lambda G(\mathbf{w}_t)$ is smaller than the MSE of $G(\mathbf{w}_t)$ in approximating Hessian $H(\mathbf{w}_t)$.

Proof:

For simplicity, we abbreviate $\mathbb{E}_{(Y|x,w^*)}$ as \mathbb{E} , G_t as $G(\mathbf{w}_t)$ and H_t as $H(\mathbf{w}_t)$. First, we calculate the MSE of G_t , λG_t to approximate H_t for each element of G_t . We denote the element in the *i*-th row and *j*-th column of $G(w_t)$ as G_{ij}^t and $H(w_t)$ as $H_{ij}(t)$.

The MSE of G_{ij}^t :

$$\mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^{t} - \mathbb{E}H_{ij}^{t})^{2} = \mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^{t} - \mathbb{E}G_{ij}^{t})^{2} + (\mathbb{E}H_{ij}^{t} - \mathbb{E}G_{ij}^{t})^{2} = \mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^{t})^{2} - (\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^{t})^{2} + \epsilon_{t}^{2}$$
(2)

The MSE of λg_{ij} :

$$\mathbb{E}(\lambda G_{ij}^t - \mathbb{E}H_{ij}^t)^2 = \lambda^2 \mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t - \mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2 + (\mathbb{E}H_{ij}^t - \lambda \mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2$$

$$= \lambda^2 \mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t)^2 - \lambda^2 (\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2 + (1 - \lambda)^2 (\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2 + \epsilon_t^2 + 2(\lambda - 1)\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t \epsilon_t$$
(3)

The condition for $\mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t - \mathbb{E}H_{ij}^t)^2 \ge \mathbb{E}(\lambda G_{ij}^t - \mathbb{E}H_{ij}^t)^2$ is

$$(1 - \lambda^2)(\mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t)^2 - (\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2) \ge 2(1 - \lambda)(\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2 + 2(\lambda - 1)\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t \epsilon_t \tag{4}$$

Inequality (4) is equivalent to

$$(1+\lambda)\mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t)^2 \ge 2[(\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2 - \mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t \epsilon_t]$$
(5)

Next we calculate $\mathbb{E}(G_{ij}^t)^2$, and $(\mathbb{E}G_{ij}^t)^2$ which appear in Eqn.(5). For simplicity, we denote $\sigma_k(x,\mathbf{w}_t)$ as σ_k , and $I_{[Y=k]}$

as z_k . Then we can get:

$$\mathbb{E}(g_{ij})^{2} = \mathbb{E}_{(Y|x,\mathbf{w}_{t})} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{i}} \log P(Y|x,\mathbf{w}_{t})\right)^{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{j}} \log P(Y|x,\mathbf{w}_{t})\right)^{2}$$

$$\geq \mathbb{E}_{(Y|x,\mathbf{w}^{*})} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \left(-\frac{z_{k}}{\sigma_{k}}\right)\right)^{4} (l_{i}l_{j})^{2}$$

$$(6)$$

$$= \alpha \left(l_i l_j\right)^2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{\sigma_k^3(x, \mathbf{w}_t)}\right) \tag{7}$$

$$(\mathbb{E}h_{ij})^2 = \left(\mathbb{E}_{(Y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\partial \sigma_k}{\partial w_i} \left(-\frac{z_k}{\sigma_k}\right) \cdot \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\partial \sigma_k}{\partial w_j} \left(-\frac{z_k}{\sigma_k}\right)\right)^2$$

$$\leq \beta^2 (u_i u_j)^2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{\sigma_k(x,\mathbf{w}_t)}\right)^2.$$

$$(8)$$

By substituting Ineq.(7) and Ineq.(8) into Ineq.(5), a sufficient condition for Ineq.(5) to be satisfied is $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{1}{\sigma_k^3(x,\mathbf{w}_t)} \ge 2\left[C_{ij}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{1}{\sigma_k(x,\mathbf{w}_t)}\right)^2 + C'_{ij}L_1^2|\epsilon_t|\right]$ because $G_{ij}^t \le L_1^2$. \square

B. Corollary 3.2 and Its Proof

Corollary 3.2: A sufficient condition for inequality (1) is $\lambda \in [0,1]$ and $\exists k_0 \in [K]$ such that $\sigma_{k_0} \in \left[1 - \frac{K-1}{2(C_{ij}K^2 + C'_{ij}L_1^2\epsilon_t)}, 1\right]$.

Proof:

Denote $\Delta = \frac{K-1}{2C_{ij}K^2}$ and $F(\sigma_1,...,\sigma_K) = \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{\sigma_k^3(x,\mathbf{w}_t)} - 2C_{ij} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{\sigma_k(x,\mathbf{w}_t)}\right)^2 - 2C_{ij}^{'}L_1^2|\epsilon_t|$. If $\exists k_1 \in [K]$ such that $\sigma_{k_1} \in [1-\Delta,1]$, we have for $k \neq k_1 \ \sigma_k \in [0,\Delta]$. Therefore

$$F(\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_K) \ge \frac{1}{(\sigma_{k_1})^3} + \frac{K - 1}{\Delta^3} - 2C_{ij} \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_{k_1}} + \frac{K - 1}{\Delta}\right)^2 - 2C'_{ij}L_1^2 |\epsilon_t|$$
(9)

$$\geq \frac{K-1}{\Delta^3} - 2C_{ij} \left(\left(\frac{K-1}{\Delta} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma_{k_1}^2} + \frac{2(K-1)}{\sigma_{k_1} \Delta} \right) - 2C'_{ij} L_1^2 |\epsilon_t| \tag{10}$$

$$\geq \frac{K-1}{\Delta^{3}} - 2C_{ij} \left(\frac{(K-1)^{2}}{\Delta^{2}} + \frac{2K-1}{\sigma_{k_{1}}\Delta} \right) - 2C'_{ij}L_{1}^{2}|\epsilon_{t}|$$
(11)

$$= \frac{1}{\Delta} \left(\frac{K-1}{\Delta^2} - 2C_{ij} \left(\frac{(K-1)^2}{\Delta} + \frac{2K-1}{\sigma_{k_1}} \right) \right) - 2C'_{ij} L_1^2 |\epsilon_t|$$
 (12)

$$\geq \frac{1}{\Delta} \left(\frac{K-1}{\Delta^2} - 2C_{ij} \left(\frac{(K-1)^2 + 2K - 1}{\Delta} \right) \right) - 2C'_{ij} L_1^2 |\epsilon_t| \tag{13}$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{\Delta^{2}} \left(\frac{K-1}{\Delta} - 2C_{ij}K^{2} - 2C'_{ij}L_{1}^{2}|\epsilon_{t}| \right)$$
 (14)

$$=0 (15)$$

where Ineq.(11) and (13) is established since $\sigma_{k_1} > \Delta$; and Eqn.(15) is established by putting $\Delta = \frac{K-1}{2(C_{ij}K^2 + C'_{ij}L_1^2|\epsilon_t|)}$ in Eqn.(14). \square

C. Uniform upper bound of MSE

Lemma C.1 Assume the loss function is L_1 -Lipschitz, and the diagonalization error of Hessian is upper bounded by ϵ_D , i.e., $||Diag(H(\mathbf{w}_t)) - H(\mathbf{w}_t)|| \le \epsilon_D$, $||Diag(H(\mathbf{w}_t)) - H(\mathbf{w}_t)|| \le \epsilon_D$,

$$mse^{t}(Diag(\lambda G)) \le 4\lambda^{2}V_{1} + 4(1-\lambda)^{2}L_{1}^{4} + 4\epsilon_{t}^{2} + 4\epsilon_{D},$$
 (16)

where V_1 is the upper bound of the variance of $G(\mathbf{w}_t)$.

Proof:

$$mse^t(Diag(\lambda G))$$
 (17)

$$\leq \mathbb{E}\|Diag(\lambda G(w_t)) - H(w_t)\|^2 \tag{18}$$

$$\leq 4\mathbb{E}\|Diag(\lambda G(w_t)) - \mathbb{E}(Diag(\lambda G(w_t)))\|^2 + 4\|\mathbb{E}(Diag(\lambda G(w_t))) - \mathbb{E}(Diag(G(w_t)))\|^2$$
(19)

$$+4\|\mathbb{E}(Diag(G(w_t))) - \mathbb{E}(Diag(H(w_t)))\|^2 + 4\|\mathbb{E}(Diag(H(w_t))) - \mathbb{E}H(w_t)\|^2$$
(20)

$$\leq 4\lambda^2 V_1 + 4(1-\lambda)^2 L_1^4 + 4\epsilon_t^2 + 4\epsilon_D$$
 (21)

D. Convergence Rate for DC-ASGD: Convex Case

DC-ASGD is a general method to compensate delay in ASGD. We first show the convergence rate for convex loss function. If the loss function f(w) is convex about w, we can add a regularization term $\frac{\rho}{2}||w||^2$ to make the objective function $F(w) + \frac{\rho}{2}||w||^2$ strongly convex. Thus, we assume that the objective function is μ -strongly convex.

Theorem 4.1: (Strongly Convex) If f(w) is L_2 -smooth and μ -strongly convex about w, $\nabla f(w)$ is L_3 -smooth about w and the expectation of the $\|\cdot\|_2^2$ norm of the delay compensated gradient is upper bounded by a constant G. By setting the learning rate $\eta_t = \frac{1}{\mu t}$, DC-ASGD has convergence rate as

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*) \le \frac{2L_2^2 G^2}{t\mu^4} \left(1 + 4\tau C_\lambda\right) + \frac{2G^2 L_2^2 \theta \sqrt{\tau}}{\mu^4 t \sqrt{t}} + \frac{L^3 L_2^3 \tau^2 G^3}{\mu^6 t^2},$$

where $\theta = \frac{2HKLG}{\mu} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{\mu} (1 + \frac{\tau GL_3}{\mu L_2})}$ and $C_{\lambda} = (1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D$, and the expectation is taking with respect to the random sampling of DC-ASGD and $\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,w^*)}$.

Proof:

We denote $g^{dc}(w_t) = g(w_t) + \lambda g(w_t) \odot g(w_t) \odot (w_{t+\tau} - w_t)$, $g^h(w_t) = g(w_t) + H_{i_t}(w_t)(w_{t+\tau} - w_t)$ and $\nabla F^h(w_t) = \nabla F(w_t) + \mathbb{E}_{i_t} H_{i_t}(w_t)(w_{t+\tau} - w_t)$. Obviously, we have $\mathbb{E}g^h(w_t) = \nabla F^h(w_t)$. By the smoothness condition, we have

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w^*) \tag{22}$$

$$\leq F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*) - \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), w_{t+\tau+1} - w_{t+\tau} \rangle + \frac{L_2}{2} \|w_{t+\tau+1} - w_{t+\tau}\|^2$$
(23)

$$\leq F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*) - \eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), g^{dc}(w_t) \rangle + \frac{L_2 \eta_{t+\tau}^2 G^2}{2}$$
(24)

$$= F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*) - \eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) \rangle + \eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t) \rangle$$
 (25)

$$+\eta_{t+\tau}\langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \mathbb{E}g^h(w_t) - g^{dc}(w_t) \rangle + \frac{L_2 \eta_{t+\tau}^2 G^2}{2}$$
(26)

Since f(w) is L_2 -smooth and μ strongly convex, we have

$$-\langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) \rangle \le -\mu^2 \|w_{t+\tau} - w^*\|^2 \le -\frac{2\mu^2}{L_2} (F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)). \tag{27}$$

¹(LeCun, 1987) demonstrated that the diagonal approximation to Hessian for neural networks is an efficient method with no much drop on accuracy

For the term $\eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t) \rangle$, we have

$$\eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t) \rangle$$
 (28)

$$\leq \eta_{t+\tau} \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau})\| \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t)\| \tag{29}$$

$$\leq \eta_{t+\tau} G \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t)\| \tag{30}$$

By the smoothness condition for $\nabla F(w)$, we have

$$\|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^h(w_t)\| \le \frac{L_3}{2} \|w_{t+\tau} - w_t\|^2 \le \frac{L_3 \tau G^2}{2} \sum_{j=0}^{\tau-1} \eta_{t+j}^2$$
(31)

Let $\eta_t = \frac{L_2}{\mu^2 t}$, we can get $\sum_{j=1}^{\tau} \eta_{t+j}^2 \leq \frac{L_2^2}{\mu^4} \cdot \frac{\tau}{t(t+\tau)} \leq \frac{2L_2^2 \tau}{\mu^4 (t+\tau)^2}$.

For the term $\eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \mathbb{E}g^h(w_t) - g^{dc}(w_t) \rangle$, we have

$$\langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \mathbb{E}(g^h(w_t) - g^{dc}(w_t)) \rangle$$
 (32)

$$\leq \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau})\| \|\mathbb{E}(\lambda g(w_t) \odot g(w_t) - H(w_t))(w_{t+\tau} - w_t)\|$$
(33)

$$\leq G^{2}\tau \sum_{j=0}^{\tau-1} \eta_{t+j}(\|\mathbb{E}(\lambda g(w_{t}) \odot g(w_{t}) - g(w_{t}) \odot g(w_{t})\| + \|g(w_{t}) \odot g(w_{t}) - Diag(H(w_{t}))\| + \|Diag(H(w_{t})) - H(w_{t})\|) \tag{34}$$

$$\leq \frac{2G^2 L_2 \tau}{(t+\tau)\mu^2} (C_\lambda + \epsilon_t),\tag{35}$$

where $C_{\lambda} = (1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D$.

Using Lemma F.1, $\epsilon_t \leq \theta \sqrt{\frac{1}{t}} \leq \theta \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{t+\tau}}$. Putting inequality 27 and 31 in inequality 26, we have

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w^*) \le \left(1 - \frac{2}{t+\tau}\right) \left(\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*)\right) + \frac{L_3 L_2^3 \tau^2 G^3}{\mu^6 (t+\tau)^3}$$
(36)

$$+\frac{2G^2L_2^2\tau}{\mu^4(t+\tau)^2}\left(C_{\lambda}+\theta\sqrt{\frac{\tau}{t+\tau}}\right)+\frac{L_2^2G^2}{2(t+\tau)^2\mu^4} \tag{37}$$

We can get

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*) \le \frac{2L_2^2 G^2}{t\mu^4} \left(1 + 4\tau C_\lambda\right) + \frac{2G^2 L_2^2 \theta \sqrt{\tau}}{\mu^4 t \sqrt{t}} + \frac{L^3 L_2^3 \tau^2 G^3}{\mu^6 t^2}.$$
 (38)

by induction. \square

Discussion:

(1). Following the above proof steps and using $\|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F(w_t)\| \le L_2 \|w_{t+\tau} - w_t\|$, we can get the convergence rate of ASGD is

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*) \le \frac{2L_2^2 G^2}{t\mu^4} \left(1 + 4\tau L_2\right). \tag{39}$$

Compared the convergence rate of DC-ASGD with ASGD, the extra term $\frac{2G^2L_2^2\theta\sqrt{\tau}}{\mu^4t\sqrt{t}}+\frac{L^3L_2^3\tau^2G^3}{\mu^6t^2}$ converge to zero faster than $\frac{2L_2^2G^2}{t\mu^4}$ $(1+4\tau C_\lambda)$ in terms of the order of t. Thus, when t is large, the extra term has smaller value. We assume that t is large and the term can be neglected. Then the condition for DC-ASGD outperforming ASGD is $L_2>C_\lambda$.

E. Convergence Rate for DC-ASGD: Nonconvex Case

Theorem 5.1: (Nonconvex Case) Assume that Assumptions 1-4 hold. Set the learning rate

$$\eta_t = \sqrt{\frac{2(F(w_1) - F(w^*)}{bTV^2L_2}},\tag{40}$$

where b is the mini-batch size, and V is the upper bound of the variance of the delay-compensated gradient. If $T \ge \max\{\mathcal{O}(1/r^4), 2D_0bL_2/V^2\}$ and delay τ is upper-bounded as below,

$$\tau \le \min \left\{ \frac{L_2 V}{C_\lambda} \sqrt{\frac{L_2 T}{2D_0 b}}, \frac{V}{C_\lambda} \sqrt{\frac{L_2 T}{2D_0 b}}, \frac{T V}{\tilde{C}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{bD_0}}, \frac{V L_2 T}{4\tilde{C}} \sqrt{\frac{T L_2}{2D_0 b}} \right\}. \tag{41}$$

then DC-ASGD has the following ergodic convergence rate,

$$\min_{t=\{1,\dots,T\}} \mathbb{E}(\|\nabla F(\mathbf{w}_t)\|^2) \le V \sqrt{\frac{2D_0 L_2}{bT}},\tag{42}$$

where the expectation is taken with respect to the random sampling in SGD and the data distribution $P(Y|x, \mathbf{w}^*)$.

Proof:

We denote $g_m(w_t) + \lambda g_m(w_t) \odot g_m(w_t) \odot (w_{t+\tau} - w_t)$ as $g_m^{dc}(w_t)$ where $m \in \{1, \cdots, b\}$ is the index of instances in the minibatch. From the proof the Theorem 1 in ASGD (Lian et al., 2015), we can get

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w_{t+\tau}) \tag{43}$$

$$\leq \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), w_{t+\tau} - w_t \rangle + \frac{L_2}{2} \| w_{t+\tau+1} - w_{t+\tau} \|^2$$
(44)

$$\leq -\eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \sum_{m=1}^{b} \mathbb{E}g_m^{dc}(w_t) \rangle + \frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^2 L_2}{2} \mathbb{E}\left(\left\| \sum_{m=1}^{b} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2 \right)$$

$$(45)$$

$$\leq -\frac{b\eta_{t+\tau}}{2} \left(\|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau})\|^2 + \left\| \sum_{m=1}^b \mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2 - \left\| \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \sum_{m=1}^b \mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2 \right)$$

$$+\frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^{2}L_{2}}{2}\mathbb{E}\left(\left\|\sum_{m=1}^{b}g_{m}^{dc}(w_{t})\right\|^{2}\right) \tag{46}$$

For the term $T_1 = \left\| \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \sum_{m=1}^b \mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2$, by using the smooth condition of g, we have

$$T_1 = \left\| \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \sum_{m=1}^b \mathbb{E}g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2$$
 (47)

$$\leq \left\| \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F^{h}(w_{t}) + \nabla F^{h}(w_{t}) - \sum_{m=1}^{b} \mathbb{E}g_{m}^{dc}(w_{t}) \right\|^{2} \tag{48}$$

$$\leq 2 \left\| \frac{L_3}{2} \| w_{t+\tau} - w_t \|^2 \right\|^2 + 2 \left\| \nabla F^h(w_t) - \sum_{m=1}^b \mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2 \tag{49}$$

$$\leq (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2(((1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2)) \|w_{t+\tau} - w_t\|^2$$
(50)

Thus by following the proof of ASGD, we have

$$\mathbb{E}(T_1) \le 4(L_3^2 \pi^2 / 4 + ((1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2) \left(b\tau \eta_{t+\tau}^2 V^2 + \tau^2 \eta_{t+\tau}^2 \left\| b\mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2 \right). \tag{51}$$

For the term $T_2 = \mathbb{E}\left(\left\|\sum_{m=1}^b g_m^{dc}(w_t)\right\|^2\right)$, it has

$$\mathbb{E}(T_2) \le bV^2 + \left\| b\mathbb{E}g_m^{dc}(w_t) \right\|^2. \tag{52}$$

By putting Ineq.(51) and Ineq.(52) in Ineq.(46), we can get

$$\mathbb{E}(F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w_{t+\tau}) \tag{53}$$

$$\leq -\frac{b\eta_{t+\tau}}{2}\mathbb{E}\|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau})\|^2 + \left(\frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^2 L_2}{2} - \frac{\eta_{t+\tau}}{2b}\right)\mathbb{E}\left(\left\|b\mathbb{E}g_m^{dc}(w_t)\right\|^2\right)$$

$$+\left(\frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^2 b L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2)b^2 \tau \eta_{t+\tau}^3\right) V^2$$
(54)

$$+(L_3^2\pi^2/2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2)b\tau^2\eta_{t+\tau}^3 \mathbb{E}\left(\left\|b\mathbb{E}g_m^{dc}(w_t)\right\|^2\right)$$
 (55)

Summarizing the Ineq.(55) from t = 1 to $t + \tau = T$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{T+1}) - F(w_1) \tag{56}$$

$$\leq -\frac{b}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \eta_{t} \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_{t})\|^{2} + \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left(\frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^{2} b L_{2}}{2} + (L_{3}^{2} \pi^{2} / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_{1}^{2} + \epsilon_{D})^{2} + \epsilon_{t}^{2}) b^{2} \tau \eta_{t+\tau}^{3} \right) V^{2}$$

$$(57)$$

$$+\sum_{t=1}^{T} \left(\frac{\eta_t^2 L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2) b \tau^2 \eta_t^3 - \frac{\eta_t}{2b} \right) \mathbb{E} \left\| b \mathbb{E} g_m^{dc}(w_{\max\{t-\tau,1\}}) \right\|^2. \tag{58}$$

By Lemma F.1 and under our assumptions, we have when $t > T_0$, w_t will goes into a strongly convex neighbourhood of some local optimal w_{loc} . Thus, $\epsilon_t \le \epsilon_{nc} + \theta \sqrt{1/(t-T_0)}$, when $t > T_0$ and $\epsilon_t < \max_{s \in 1, \dots, T_0} \epsilon_s$ when $t < T_0$.

Let $\eta_t = \sqrt{\frac{2(F(w_1) - F(w^*)}{bTV^2L_2}}$. It follows that

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\eta_t L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2)b\tau^2 \eta_t^2$$
(59)

$$\leq \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left\{ \frac{\eta_t L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2)b\tau^2 \eta_t^2 \right\} + 2b\tau^2 \eta_t^2 (4T_0 \max_{s \in 1, \dots, T_0} (\epsilon_s)^2 + 4\theta^2 \log(T - T_0)) \tag{60}$$

We ignore the $\log(T-T_0)$ term and regards $\tilde{C}^2=4T_0\max_{s\in 1,\cdots,T_0}(\epsilon_s)^2+4\theta^2\log(T-T_0)$ as a constant, which yields

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\eta_t L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + \epsilon_t^2)b\tau^2 \eta_t^2$$
(61)

$$\leq \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left\{ \frac{\eta_t L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2)b\tau^2 \eta_t^2 \right\} + 2\tau^2 \eta_t^2 b\tilde{C}^2$$
 (62)

 η_t should be set to make

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \left(\frac{\eta_t^2 L_2}{2} + (L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2) b \tau^2 \eta_t^3 + \frac{2\tau^2 \eta_t^3 b \tilde{C}^2}{T} - \frac{\eta_t}{2b} \right) \le 0.$$
 (63)

Then we can get

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \tag{64}$$

$$\leq \frac{2(F(w_1) - F(w^*) + Tb(\eta_t^2 L_2 + 2(L_3^2 \pi^2 / 2 + 2((1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2)b\tau \eta_t^3)V^2 + \frac{\eta_t^3 \tilde{C}^2 4b\tau}{T}V^2}{bT\eta_t}$$

$$(65)$$

$$\leq \frac{2(F(w_1) - F(w^*)}{bT\eta_t} + (\eta_t L_2 + 2(L_3^2 \pi^2/2 + 2((1 - \lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2)b\tau\eta_t^2)V^2 + \frac{\eta_t^2 \tilde{C}^2 4b\tau V^2}{T}$$
(66)

(67)

We set η_t to make

$$(2(L_3^2\pi^2/2 + 2((1-\lambda)L_1^2 + \epsilon_D)^2 + 2\epsilon_{nc}^2)b\tau\eta_t^2) + \frac{\eta_t^2\tilde{C}^24b\tau}{T} \le \eta_t L_2$$
(68)

Thus let $\eta_t = \sqrt{\frac{2(F(w_1) - F(w^*)}{bTV^2L_2}}$,

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \le V \sqrt{\frac{2D_0 L_2}{bT}}.$$
(69)

And we can get the condition for T by putting η in ineq.63 and ineq.68, we can get that

$$\tau \le \min \left\{ \frac{L_2 V}{C_{\lambda}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2 T}{2D_0 b}}, \frac{V}{C_{\lambda}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2 T}{2D_0 b}}, \frac{T V}{\tilde{C}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{bD_0}}, \frac{V L_2 T}{4\tilde{C}} \sqrt{\frac{T L_2}{2D_0 b}} \right\}. \tag{70}$$

F. Decreasing rate of the approximation error ϵ_t

Since ϵ_t is contained the proof of the convergence rate for DC-ASGD, in this section we will introduce a lemma which describes the approximation error ϵ_t the for both convex and nonconvex cases.

Lemma F.1 Assume that the true label y is generated according to the distribution $\mathbb{P}(Y = k|x, w^*) = \sigma_k(x, w^*)$ and $f(x, y, \mathbf{w}) = -\sum_{k=1}^K (I_{[y=k]} \log \sigma_k(x; \mathbf{w}))$. If we assume that the loss function is μ -strongly convex about w. We denote \mathbf{w}_t is the output of DC-ASGD by using the outerproduct approximation of Hessian, we have

$$\epsilon_t = \left| \mathbb{E}_{(x,y|\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) - \mathbb{E}_{(x,y|\mathbf{w}^*)} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) \right) \otimes \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) \right) \right| \leq \theta \sqrt{\frac{1}{t}},$$

where
$$\theta = \frac{2HKLVL_2}{\mu^2} \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu} (1 + \frac{L_2 + \lambda L_1^2}{L_2} \tau)}$$
.

If we assume that the loss function is μ -strongly convex in a neighborhood of each local optimal $d(\mathbf{w}_{loc}, r)$, $\left|\frac{\partial^2 \mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w})}{\partial^2 \mathbf{w}} \times \frac{1}{P(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w})}\right| \leq H$, $\forall k, x, w$, each $\sigma_k(\mathbf{w})$ is L-Lipschitz continuous about \mathbf{w} . We denote \mathbf{w}_t is the output of DC-ASGD by using the outerproduct approximation of Hessian, we have

$$\epsilon_t = \left| \mathbb{E}_{(x,y|\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) - \mathbb{E}_{(x,y|\mathbf{w}^*)} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) \right) \otimes \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} f(x,y,\mathbf{w}_t) \right) \right| \leq \theta \sqrt{\frac{1}{t - T_0}} + \epsilon_{nc}.$$

where $t > T_0 \ge \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{r^8})$.

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} f(x, Y, \mathbf{w}_t) = -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K (I_{[y=k]} \log \sigma_k(x; \mathbf{w}_t)) \right) \\
= -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} \log \left(\prod_{k=1}^K \sigma_k(x, \mathbf{w}_t)^{I_{[y=k]}} \right) \\
= -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{w}^2} \log \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t) \\
= -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)} + \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \left(\frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)} \right)^2 \\
= -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)} + \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} \log \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t) \right)^2 . \\
= -\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t)} + \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} \log \mathbb{P}(y|x, \mathbf{w}_t) \right)^2 . \tag{71}$$

Since $\mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} = \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} = 0$ by the two equivalent methods to calculating fisher information matrix (Friedman et al., 2001), we have

$$\left| \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} \right| = \left| \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}^*)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} - \mathbb{E}_{(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(y|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} \right| \\
= \left| \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \omega^2} \mathbb{P}(Y=k|X=x,\mathbf{w}_t) \times \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w}^*) - \mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w}_t)} \right| \\
\leq H \cdot \sum_{k=1}^K \left| \mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w}^*) - \mathbb{P}(Y=k|x,\mathbf{w}_t) \right|$$
(72)

$$\leq HKL\|\mathbf{w}_{t} - \mathbf{w}_{loc}\| + HK \max_{k=1,\dots,K} |\mathbb{P}(Y = k|x, \mathbf{w}_{loc}) - \mathbb{P}(Y = k|x, \mathbf{w}^{*})|$$

$$(73)$$

$$\leq HKL \|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}_{loc}\| + \epsilon_{nc}. \tag{74}$$

For strongly convex objective functions, $\epsilon_{nc}=0$ and $w_{loc}=w^*$. The only thing we need is to prove the convergence of DC-ASGD without using the information of ϵ_t like before. By the smoothness condition, we have

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w^*) \tag{75}$$

$$\leq F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*) - \eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \mathbb{E}g^{dc}(w_t) \rangle + \frac{L_2 \eta_{t+\tau}^2 V^2}{2}$$

$$\tag{76}$$

$$= F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*) - \eta_{t+\tau} \langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) \rangle \tag{77}$$

$$+\eta_{t+\tau}\langle \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}), \nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \mathbb{E}g^{dc}(w_t)\rangle + \frac{L_2\eta_{t+\tau}^2V^2}{2}$$
(78)

$$\leq (1 - \frac{2\eta_{t+\tau}\mu^2}{L_2})(F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)) + \eta_{t+\tau} \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau})\| \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \mathbb{E}g^{dc}(w_t)\| + \frac{L_2\eta_{t+\tau}^2 V^2}{2}$$
 (79)

$$\leq (1 - \frac{2\eta_{t+\tau}\mu^2}{L_2})(F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)) + \eta_{t+\tau}V \cdot (L_2 + \lambda L_1^2) \|w_{t+\tau} - w_t\| + \frac{L_2\eta_{t+\tau}^2V^2}{2}$$
(80)

$$\leq (1 - \frac{2\eta_{t+\tau}\mu^2}{L_2})(F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)) + \eta_{t+\tau}V \cdot (L_2 + \lambda L_1^2) \|\sum_{j=1}^{\tau} \eta_{t+\tau-j} g^{dc}(w_t)\| + \frac{L_2\eta_{t+\tau}^2 V^2}{2}$$
(81)

Taking expectation to the above inequality, we can get

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau+1}) - F(w^*) \leq (1 - \frac{2\eta_{t+\tau}\mu^2}{L_2})(\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)) + \frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^2(L_2 + \lambda L_1^2)V^2\tau}{2} + \frac{L_2\eta_{t+\tau}^2V^2}{2}$$
(82)

$$\leq (1 - \frac{2\eta_{t+\tau}\mu^2}{L_2})(\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+\tau}) - F(w^*)) + \frac{\eta_{t+\tau}^2 V^2 L_2}{2} (1 + \frac{L_2 + \lambda L_1^2}{L_2} \tau). \tag{83}$$

Let $\eta_t = \frac{L_2}{\mu^2 t}$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_{t+1}) - F(w^*) \le \left(1 - \frac{2}{t}\right) (\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*)) + \frac{V^2 L_2^2}{2\mu^4 t^2} \left(1 + \frac{L_2 + \lambda L_1^2}{L_2} \tau\right). \tag{84}$$

We can get

$$\mathbb{E}F(w_t) - F(w^*) \le \frac{2L_2^2 V^2}{t\mu^4} \left(1 + \frac{L_2 + \lambda L_1^2}{L_2} \tau \right). \tag{85}$$

by induction. Then we can get

$$\|w_t - w^*\|^2 \le \frac{4L_2^2 V^2}{t\mu^5} \left(1 + \frac{L_2 + \lambda L_1^2}{L_2} \tau \right). \tag{86}$$

By putting Ineq.86 into Ineq.73, we can get the result in the theorem.

For nonconvex case, if $\mathbf{w}_t \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{w}_{loc}, r)$, we have $\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}_{loc}) \leq \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbb{E} \nabla F(\mathbf{w}_t)$ under the assumptions. Next we will prove that, for nonconvex loss function $f(x, y, \mathbf{w}_t)$, DC-ASGD has ergodic convergence rate. $\min_{t=1, \dots, T} \mathbb{E} \| \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}_t} F(x, y, \mathbf{w}_t) \|^2 = \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{T})$, where the expectation is taking with respect to the stochastic sampling.

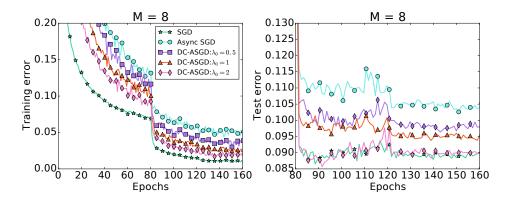


Figure 1. Error rates of the global model with Different λ_0 w.r.t. number of effective passes on CIFAR-10

Compared with the proof of ASGD (Lian et al., 2015), DC-ASGD with Hessian approximation has

$$T_1 = \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \mathbb{E}g^{dc}(w_t)\|^2$$
(87)

$$= \|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F(w_t) - \lambda \mathbb{E}g(w_t) \odot g(w_t) \cdot (w_{t+\tau} - w_t)\|^2$$
(88)

$$\leq 2\|\nabla F(w_{t+\tau}) - \nabla F(w_t)\|^2 + 2\|\lambda \mathbb{E}g(w_t) \odot g(w_t) \cdot (w_{t+\tau} - w_t)\|^2 \tag{89}$$

$$< 2(L_2^2 + \lambda^2 L_1^4) \|w_{t+\tau} - w_t\|^2,$$
 (90)

since L_1 is the upper bound of $\nabla f(w)$ and L_2 is the smooth coefficient of f(w). Suppose that $\eta = \sqrt{\frac{2D_0}{bTV^2L_2}}$ and τ is upper bounded as Theorem 5.1,

$$\min_{t=1,\dots,T} \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \le \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \le \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{T^{1/2}}). \tag{91}$$

Referring to a recent work of Lee et.al (Lee et al., 2016), GD with a random initialization and sufficiently small constant step size converges to a local minimizer almost surely under the assumptions in Theorem 1.2. Thus, the assumption that F(w) is μ -strongly convex in the r-neighborhood of arbitrary local minimum w_{loc} is easily to be satisfied with probability one. By the L_1 -Lipschitz assumption, we have $P(Y = k|x, w_t) - P(Y = k|x, w_{loc}) \le L_1 \|w_t - w_{loc}\|$. By the L_2 -smooth assumption, we have $L_2 \|w_t - w_{loc}\|^2 \ge \langle \nabla F(w_t), w_t - w_{loc} \rangle$. Thus for $w_t \in \mathcal{B}(w_{loc}, r)$, we have $\|\nabla F(w_t)\| \le L_2 \|w_t - w_{loc}\| \le L_2 r$. By the continuously twice differential assumption, we can assume that $\|\nabla F(w_t)\| \le L_2 \|w_t - w_{loc}\| \le L_2 r$ for $w_t \in \mathcal{B}(w_{loc}, r)$ and $\|\nabla F(w_t)\| \le L_2 \|w_t - w_{loc}\| > L_2 r$ for $w_t \notin \mathcal{B}(w_{loc}, r)$ without loss of generality $\frac{1}{2}$. Therefore $\min_{t=1,\dots,T} \mathbb{E}\|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \le L_2^2 r^2$ is a sufficient condition for $\mathbb{E}\|w_T - w_{loc}\| \le r$.

$$\min_{t=1,\dots,T_0} \mathbb{E} \|\nabla F(w_t)\|^2 \le \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{T_0^{1/2}}) \le r^2.$$
(92)

We have $T_0 \geq \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r^4}\right)$.

Thus we have finished the proof for nonconvex case.

G. Experimental Results on the Influence of λ

In this section, we show how the parameter λ affect our DC-ASGD algorithm. We compare the performance of respectively sequential SGD, ASGD and DC-ASGD-a with different value of initial λ_0^3 . The results are given in Figure 1. This experiment reflects to the discussion in Section 5, too large value of this parameter ($\lambda_0 > 2$ in this setting) will introduce large variance and lead to a wrong gradient direction, meanwhile too small will make the compensation influence nearly disappear. As λ decreasing, DC-ASGD will gradually degrade to ASGD. A proper λ will lead to significant better accuracy.

 $^{^{2}}$ We can choose r small enough to make it satisfied.

³We also compare different λ_0 for DC-ASGD-c and the results are very similar to DC-ASGD-a.

H. Large Mini-batch Synchronous SGD with Delay-Compensated Gradient

In this section, we discuss how delay-compensated gradient can be used in synchronous SGD. The effective mini-batch size in SSGD is usually enlarged M times comparing with sequential SGD. A learning rate scaling trick is commonly used to overcome the influence of large mini-batch size in SSGD (Goyal et al., 2017): when the mini-batch size is multiplied by M, multiply the learning rate by M. For sequential mini-batch SGD with learning rate η we have:

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+M} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \sum_{j < M} g(\mathbf{w}_{t+j}, z_{t+j}), \tag{93}$$

where z_{t+j} is the t+j-th minibatch.

On the other hand, taking one step with M times large mini-batch size and learning rate $\hat{\eta} = M\eta$ in synchronous SGD yields:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \hat{\eta} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j \le M} g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j), \tag{94}$$

where z_t^j is the t-th minibatch on local machine j.

Assume that $z_{t+j} = z_t^j$. The assumption $g(\mathbf{w}_{t+j}, z_{t+j}) \approx g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j)$ was made in synchronous SGD(Goyal et al., 2017). However, it often may not hold.

If we denote $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t+1}^j = \mathbf{w}_t - \hat{\eta} \frac{1}{M} g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j), j \in [M]$, we can use Eq.(5) in the main paper to compensate this assumption and apply delay-compensated gradient to update Eq.94 with:

$$g(\mathbf{w}_{t+j}, z_{t+j}) \approx g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j) + \lambda g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j) \odot g(\mathbf{w}_t, z_t^j) \odot (\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t+j} - \mathbf{w}_t), j < M.$$

$$(95)$$

We have $\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t+1}$. For j > 1, we need to design an order to make $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t+j} \approx \mathbf{w}_{t+j}$. Choosing \mathbf{w}_{t+j} according to the increasing order of $\|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t+j} - \mathbf{w}_t\|^2$ can be used since the smaller distance with \mathbf{w}_t will induce more accurate approximation by using Taylor expansion.

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